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Iraq seeks new Shatt treaty

BAGHDAD, Nov. 18, (Reuters): Iraq urged Iran today to set up joint committees to break a deadlock in peace talks.

But Iraq will not pull out of Iranian territory it holds until Tehran accepts Baghdad's full sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab border waterway, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference.

He called for a new treaty on the Shatt Al Arab, which is Iraq's outlet to the sea and was one of the root issues of the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Iraq told a United Nations mediator on Thursday it was willing to exchange prisoners of war simultaneously with an Iraqi withdrawal — an easing of the withdrawal-first position it had held since fighting ended.

Aziz, dressed in olive green military fatigues, repeatedly accused Iran on black-mail and stalling on a peace treaty.

He suggested the formation of committees under United Nations auspices to discuss troop withdrawal and the exchange of some 100,000 POWs. He said the committees could meet alternately in Baghdad and Tehran.

"We have not yet received the Iranian response," Aziz said.

Iraq refuses to hold direct talks, using the UN as its only channel of dialogue with Baghdad.

Aziz warned of prolonging the 15-month-old ceasefire which he described as a state of "no peace, no war."

"The probability of the resumption of hostilities is not high ... due to the present balance of power which is going to last for a long time," Aziz said.

"That does not mean that we are not concerned about the current situation and taking our precautions ... is there a threat to peace in the region? Yes, the region still lives in uncertainty."

He said Iraq's proposal was handed to Iran by UN envoy Jan Eliasson who left Tehran yesterday. "We are bound to hear from him," Aziz said.

He said the committees would pave the way for direct talks between the foreign ministers of both countries "without excluding higher level meetings."

Aziz stressed that Iraq considers the Shatt Al Arab an Iraqi waterway and called on Iran to "work on a new accord which will live in the future."

Iraq agreed in 1973 to share the border waterway with pre-revolutionary Iran. It tore up the pact shortly before the Gulf war.

"The 1975 Algiers accord is dead and that is what we told Eliasson," Aziz said.

He said Iraq was ready to free all POWs holds but told Iran not to mix humanitarian issues with political ones.

"The Iranians are using a humanitarian issue as a bargaining chip," he said of the POWs.



Hacker cracks phone system

A LOCAL daily has reported that an unknown person has of late been able to gain access into the telephone central networks using a computer.

The inhabitants of one of the model areas were woken up at 4:55 am a few days ago, as the anonymous caller seemed to derive fun from waking the residents up all at the same time.

Complaints brought to the ministry's attention resulted in the formation of two ad-hoc committees to look into the case of the anonymous caller, but meetings had been concluded with no tangible results.

The Ministry of Communications monitors the telephones of subscribers who request this service because they had been receiving crank calls.

The director of the telephone control department at the ministry, Yousef Al Sultan, said that housemaids were the biggest source of annoyance over the telephone.

He told a local daily that the ministry traced the number from which the annoying calls were made and the telephone was cut for 15 days. Some cases were referred to the Ministry of Interior for legal action.

Usually the department provided the Ministry of Interior with information on the individuals who made the harassing calls.

He said that the complainants' telephones were monitored for as long as ten days, or more depending on the situation. The subscriber could renew his request for monitoring.

He said that unfortunately most of the annoying calls were made by Asian maids.

See Also Page 16



US sends back envoy to Beirut

Gemayel expected soon

Poll position

A Pagan soldier, sitting on a ballot box, guards election paraphernalia to be used for the Nov 19 autonomy plebiscite after a bomb exploded on Friday night in the city hall of Marawi city, south of Manila. (Reuters wirephoto) **See Page 6**

EHDEN, Lebanon, Nov. 18, (Agencies): US Ambassador John McCarthy returned briefly to his post today to show support for Lebanon's new President.

He told reporters that General Michel Aoun, who is holding out in the Christian enclave, should be a "good soldier" and submit to civilian authority.

McCarthy and his 29 staff evacuated the Beirut embassy on Sept 6 because of fears for their safety during anti-American protests by Aoun's supporters.

He visited President Rene Muawad at his home in Ehdén, a Syrian-controlled village 100 km (60 miles) north of Beirut. Officials said he would present his credentials tomorrow.

General Aoun rejects an internationally-backed plan to end 14 years of civil war by reducing the entrenched powers of Lebanon's Christian minority.

Muawad's wife and about 50 other women cheered McCarthy and his aides as they arrived.

"Welcome America, welcome America," they chanted.

But McCarthy told reporters he would not be staying long.

"We will return as soon as our security can be guaranteed ... as soon as we are certain we can have free and open contact with all the different political leaders," he said.

"Those are not conditions, those are just the realities."

"Lebanon has a long tradition of constitutional democracy. In that tradition as far as I know military officers have always followed the civilian authority."

"I would assume that like the good soldier that he is, he (Aoun) will very soon fall in line behind civilian authority," McCarthy said.

Muawad's election by Muslim and Christian members of Parliament on Nov 5 gave Lebanon a head of state again after a gap of more than a year.

Aoun holds out because the peace plan does not ensure departure of Syrian troops controlling two-thirds of the country.

"My government has a good deal of respect for General Aoun. We basically agreed with almost all the objectives that he was pursuing," the ambassador said. "It was really the means he was using that we quarrelled for."

Former president Amia Gemayel is expected here within 48 hours, amid reports that he is back to reclaim leadership of the Phalangist Party, founded by his father Pierre, from current commander of the Lebanese Christian Forces Samir Geagea.

Sources in East Beirut said that Gemayel and Aoun held contacts in an effort to topple head of the party Dr. George Saadeh and Geagea, in co-ordination with Fouad Abu Nadher, a former Christian commander and Gemayel's nephew.

Aoun, meanwhile, showed no sign of bending.

"Lebanon is on the verge of disappearing," he warned in a flag day message to Lebanese abroad.

"The democratic and free Lebanon and the model of co-existence is threatened with disintegration and disappearance because of regional autocracy and international silence and external interests."

Aoun again rejected the recent Lebanese peace accord in an interview published today and proposed instead that the civil war be settled in talks between the country's religious factions.

Aoun said the peace agreement "was a dead one" because it was "worked out by a handful of men who have lost their capacity as representatives of the people."

A bomb exploded early today outside the home of one of the Lebanese lawmakers who participated in the peace conference.

Bombs claim 13 lives in India

AMRITSAR, Nov. 18, (Agencies): Nine bomb blasts across northern India today killed 13 people and wounded at least 50 others, while widespread fighting between police and Muslims in the northern Kashmir valley left some 200 people injured, officials said.

There was no official confirmation of any linkage in the bombings, the most serious in the heart of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, where police said two powerful explosions left 10 people dead and some 50 others wounded.

Most of the bloodshed in recent weeks has been ignited by tensions linked to next week's parliamentary elections, in which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is trying to overcome a tough opposition challenge against his Congress (I) Party.

Police officials said there were no claims of responsibility for the Amritsar attacks, which involved two crude homemade bombs planted in bustling marketplaces to inflict maximum casualties, but Punjab has been the scene of numerous bombings by Sikh radicals advocating the northern state secede.

A UPI reporter who visited the site of a bombing at Kakra Ahluwalia market near the Golden Temple — Sikhism's holiest shrine — saw the remains of three people and an area scattered with broken glass and sprayed with the blood of the wounded, who numbered about 10.

The second bomb exploded in the Hindu-dominated Nankana Mandi area on the other side of the temple, killing three people instantly and wounding about 40 others, of whom four died later in hospital. Many Sikh extremists attacks have targeted Hindus in a strategy aimed at terrifying the minority into fleeing Punjab.

"There was a big light and sound for a few seconds and I felt consciousness," said a 45-year-old man who had ventured into the Hindu market to buy vegetables and was hit by bomb splinters. "When I came to my senses, blood was pouring from my legs and mouth were shouting for help."

Many of the injured belonged to a party of Hindu pilgrims travelling through the area on a marriage procession. Doctors said most of the victims were seriously wounded, among them Manish Kumar, 18, who writhed in pain as he was wheeled in to an operating theatre where surgeons amputated her severed leg.

The Prime Minister of India reported three people died in another bomb blast in Chandigarh town in northern India's Punjab state, but it gave scant details.

The agency also said a fourth device exploded outside a cinema in Varanasi, where a curfew has been in effect because of Muslim-Hindu clashes. The bomb did not inflict any injuries, the agency said.

The prime minister announced at a campaign rally in northern Bihar state, where much of the bloodshed has occurred, that next-of-kin of riot victims would be paid 100,000 rupees (\$6,000) as compensation.

Elsewhere, violence rocked Muslim areas of northern Jammu and Kashmir state in demonstrations staged by the Islamic Students League over a textbook carrying a picture of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Officials reported five large bombs damaged government offices in Srinagar and two other towns in the valley near the state capital.

Mine tragedy

Ninety-one coal miners were killed in one of Yugoslavia's worst pit disasters and four people have been arrested.

The fire broke out in the Aleksinac coal mine in the republic of Serbia 200 km (125 miles) south of Belgrade, trapping 166 miners, Tanjug news agency said.

The official death toll was earlier put at 82, but Tanjug said one of those suspected to have died had in fact left work before the fire broke out on Friday.

Mine director Stanislav Mandusic said on Friday the fire may have been caused by welding works in a tunnel. Picture shows the father of a missing miner cradles at the pit-head of the mine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Details Page 6

Israelis call for Palestine

MILAN, Nov. 18, (Reuters): Israeli opposition parliamentarians called today for establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

At a joint news conference with Palestinians from inside and outside the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the 30 Israeli deputies said their government should start immediate peace talks with the PLO.

"The Palestinians should be able to enjoy freely their national sovereignty and exercise without conditions the right to vote and elect their own representatives," said Shaulmit Aloni, president of the Israeli Ratz Party.

"We must build a future in which there will no longer be either occupiers or the occupied," Aloni added.

Aloni was among about 30 Israelis, Palestinians, Western academics and Jews taking part in a three-day conference in Milan on prospects for Middle East peace.

He said conceding autonomy to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza was not enough.

Israeli Labour Party deputy Loya Eliaz said that 20 years ago only about five per cent of Israelis favoured talks with Palestinians to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.



US ambassador John McCarthy (second left) and Charge d'Affaires David Satterfield (second right) are greeted by Nayla Muawad, Lebanon's First Lady (left), in north Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Several killed in Baghdad clashes

Exodus crisis

BAGHDAD, Nov. 18, (Reuters): Several people were killed in fighting in Baghdad between Iraqis and Egyptian workers celebrating their country's soccer victory in a World Cup qualifying match, witnesses said today.

"A man drove his car through the crowd and several people were killed and injured. I even heard gunshots," an Egyptian expatriate said.

He said fighting erupted after thousands of Egyptian expatriates took to the streets last night when their national team beat Algeria 1-0 in Cairo and qualified for the next year's finals in Italy for the first time in 55 years.

There was no official word on the incident but streets were sealed off while several ambulances went to the scene.

A Reuters correspondent said he saw municipal workers clearing the streets of stones and broken glass after last night's clash. Several shop windows were shattered.

Some accused jobless Iraqi soldiers returning from the front after the eight-year Gulf war with Iran of forming gangs to attack Egyptians to force them to leave the country.

Meanwhile, top Iraqi and Egyptian leaders sought today to dispel clouds in their relations caused by an exodus of Egyptian workers from Iraq and a recent sharp rise in the mortality rate among them.

Egypt's Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan of Iraq exchanged warm remarks after Ramadan arrived for regular consultations that assumed special importance with the labour crisis.

"Iraqi-Egyptian relations are more than excellent, and we are eager to solve all problems," Sedki told reporters after greeting Ramadan at Cairo international airport. "There is no need to worry unduly."

He said the problem of Egyptian workers in Iraq will be discussed at the weekend meeting of the joint top-level committee that convenes periodically to shepherd the development of relations.



Branson that's me

Virgin Atlantic chairman Richard Branson identifies himself to three-year-old Hitoshikeda and his mother Yuka underneath a traditional Japanese umbrella in a mountain resort in southern Japan, the site for the launch of his attempt to cross the Pacific by hot-air balloon. In his hand is the town's version of the balloon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fundamentalists attack temples

12 injured in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Nov. 18, (Agencies): Muslim fundamentalists today attacked shops and houses of Hindus in southwest Bangladesh, and at least 12 people were injured when police put down the riot, according to reports.

Reporters in Khulna, 135 kilometres (85 miles) southwest of Dhaka, said police were called to stop the violence triggered by Hindu fundamentalists' efforts in neighbouring India to build a temple on a site claimed by Muslims.

Muslims object to the temple because it can be built only by demolishing a 16th-century mosque located on the disputed site in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

At least 50 people were injured in Khulna yesterday in similar violence, said the reporters who were contacted by telephone. They did not have details of today's violence.

Riot police patrolled Khulna today and banned assembly of more than four people to stop more religious violence.

Authorities said they ordered the clampdown after crowds attacked temples in the southern industrial town.

Khulna was virtually shut today by a 12-hour protest strike called by three opposition political groups. They blamed the temple attack on what they called "police indifference."

Police said the stoppage was peaceful except for some "minor sporadic incidents" in which three people were hurt in clashes.

The Bengali-language newspaper Sangbad said about 500 Muslims yesterday hurled stones at Hindu-owned shops and the office of the secular Awami League Party after a rally in the town park.

The protesters belong to a fundamentalist group called Council of Priests, the independent daily said in a dispatch from Khulna, located about 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of the border with India.

Police fired in the air and used tear gas and truncheons to disperse the rioters, the newspaper said. It did not say if the injuries were sustained in the police action or the earlier attacks.

It said police have arrested 13 people. Officials in Khulna refused to comment. It was not known if today's protest also was called by the Council of Priests.

The Information Ministry has asked the local media not to report communal violence in Bangladesh sparked by similar violence in India.

Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan protested to India after a Hindu group laid the foundation stone Nov 9 for the temple of god Ram at Ayodhya.

IRA mine blows up UK troops

MAYOBRIDGE, Northern Ireland, Nov. 18, (Reuters): Three British soldiers were killed and another seriously injured today when their armoured Land Rover was blown up by a landmine in Northern Ireland, police said.

Just hours earlier a car exploded at a British army barracks in eastern England, seriously injuring a soldier and his wife.

The attacks appeared to herald the start of a pre-Christmas bombing blitz by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting British rule in Northern Ireland.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for either attack, but police strongly suspect the IRA was responsible.

The three soldiers, who were on patrol in the foothills of the Mourne mountains, died instantly in the Mayobridge attack near the border with the Irish Republic.

"We believe it was a landmine concealed in a culvert at the side of the road," a police spokesman said.

DAY BY DAY

IN some Gulf states parties are formed for the sole purpose of maligning and hindering successful persons.

These people are failures and their only task is to put obstacles in front of others.

They do this by raising the religious banner at times or using the pretext of preserving the traditions of society at other times.

It seems that these parties have nothing to do but spoil positive work or play down the importance of any good initiative.

In other words, they do this to harm a successful man.

Zahed Matar

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-easterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 2.00 am, 5.00 pm

Low water: 10.00 am, 10.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.15 am

Sunset: 4.51 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 23°C/73°F

Amman: 21°C/70°F

Falaka: 22°C/72°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C/55°F

Amman: 16°C/61°F

Falaka: 17°C/63°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 24°C/75°F

Amman: 22°C/72°F

Falaka: 23°C/73°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 21 per cent

Amman: 20 per cent

Falaka: 23 per cent

Chinese policy will not change

Dhaka, Beijing sign accords

DHAKA, Nov 18, (UPI): China's independent foreign policy and the programmes for economic reform will remain unchanged, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said today after signing agreements during a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and Li today had a river cruise, when several agreements between the two governments were signed, and visited a bridge which China built as a gift to Bangladesh.

Dhaka and Beijing called for a total withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodia under the United Nations supervision and supported the establishment of a broad based government to foster stability in that country, Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Abdul Ahsan said after a two-hour meeting with Li.

He said the two sides also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, South Africa, the successful elections in Namibia, the development of South Asia and a "relaxation of world tensions following steps taken by the superpowers on disarmament."

Both sides also discussed bilateral issues and decided to hold regular meetings at foreign ministers level.

Ahsan told reporters that the issue of last spring democracy demonstrations in China and the government crackdown on students at Tiananmen Square

"was mentioned in passing." "Things are now normal in China," Li told Ershad, according to Ahsan.

Military co-operation between China and Bangladesh was also "referred to in passing," according to Ahsan. Both countries have had a long co-operation in this sector.

Addressing a reception offered today by citizens of Dhaka, Li said: "The Chinese people are firm in attaining the objective of building socialism with Chinese characteristics."

A recent plenary session of the Chinese Communist Party central committee was "devoted exclusively to the question of economic development," he added. "The party decided to rectify the economic order and deepen the reforms to ensure a sustained growth."

Li said China came up to "difficulties in its road of advance and committed errors and made detours."

"We will encounter more problems in future," said Li without a mention to the June 3-4 suppression of demonstrations in Beijing.

Li, who leads a 58-member delegation, will leave Dhaka tomorrow at end of three-day official visit to Bangladesh which accorded the Chinese leader one of the most lavish welcomes ever given by this country.

Game is over for Rajiv, or is it?

NEW DELHI, Nov 18, (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, beset by charges of corruption and incompetence, is counting on past glories to push it to victory in this week's general elections.

Five years after winning the biggest landslide in Indian history, the Congress Party is confronted by plummeting popularity, a fairly and unified opposition and the possibility of losing an election for only the second time.

An opinion poll released this weekend by the independent news magazine Sunday found that Congress had enough support to win between 180 and 215 seats in the 542-member Parliament, compared to its fourth-fifths majority of 415 in the last elections.

Newspapers and independent commentators also say the opposition has the edge in the voting, which starts Nov 22 and ends Nov 29.

"I see the opposition forming the next government," said Ashis Nandy, a widely read political commentator. "The game, I suspect, is over."

Another analyst, Bhabani Sen Gupta, said: "The chances of the Congress coming back to power are going down. The party seems to be in serious trouble."

But Congress Party leaders are optimistic of winning the ninth general elections since India gained independence from Britain in 1947.

"Despite all the attacks, the Congress is the only truly national organisation in the country," party spokesman Anand Sharma said. "There is no other party which is present in every district, every village of the country. It's a binding force."

The roots of the party's monolithic presence lie in India's struggle to gain freedom from Britain.

The Congress Party was founded in 1884 by an Englishman, Allan Octavian Hume, as a lobby seeking more Indian representation in the colonial government. Within 35 years, it had grown into a full-fledged independence movement.

Non-co-operation with the British government in New Delhi began in 1919 under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi, the hero of the struggle for independence who is revered as the Mahatma (great soul).

Mahatma Gandhi did not join the Congress Party, but spread its message across India, launching the most widespread non-violent freedom movement in history.

After independence, the Congress Party's popularity eroded to its lowest point in the general elections of 1977.

Gandhi's close associate, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his daughter, Indira Gandhi, headed the government for 27 of those years. Indira Gandhi got her name from her husband, Ferroz Gandhi, who was not related to the Mahatma.

The Congress Party's run was broken in 1977 when India's usually disparate opposition parties merged to form the Janata Party and capitalised on dissatisfaction with Congress rule.

The vote for the Janata party was seen as a rejection of India's strict emergency laws and a sterilisation programme that began as a method for slowing population growth, but was used as a weapon against political enemies.

However, the new Janata government fell apart before completing its five-year term. Indira was voted back to power in 1980.

She was assassinated by separatist Sikh militants in 1984. Her slaying generated a wave of sympathy that swept her son Rajiv to power later that year.

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On the hustings

Indian opposition leader and Chief Minister of Haryana Devi Lal urges people in the town of Sonkh to vote against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in next week's elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

Opposition in the upswing

Clean govt. promised

NEW DELHI, Nov 18, (AP): A United opposition, brushing aside accusations against its members ranging from nepotism to murder, is campaigning for next week's national elections with a promise of clean government.

Rising above their usual internal squabbles, the opposition leaders have forged a fragile coalition led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh, arch political foe of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The united opposition is now a reality. And that is a threat to (Gandhi's) Congress Party," said Ashwini Ray, professor of political science at New Delhi's prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Opposition unity is crucial in Indian elections.

The Congress Party has won control of Parliament in seven of the country's eight elections, despite getting less than half the popular vote, because its opposition was splintered into several parties.

This time a five-party opposition coalition, known as the National Front, has fielded 315 candidates for the 525 seats at stake. Its candidates, along with co-operating candidates from other opposition parties, are aiming for one-on-one contests with the Congress in nearly 90 per cent of the races.

The Parliament has 542 seats, but several elections have been postponed indefinitely because of candidates' deaths, delays in preparing voter rolls or snow-blocked roads in northern India.

Other opposition parties co-operating with the National Front are the Hindu right wing Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Left Front, a coalition of two communist parties and smaller socialist groups.

With about 500 million registered voters electing members to the lower house (Lok Sabha) of Parliament, the balloting on Nov 22, 24 and 26 will be the world's largest electoral exercise.

The opposition "has accepted V.P. Singh as its leader and the next possible prime minister, reducing chances of another breakup in the event of an opposition victory," said Pranoy Roy, India's leading statistical evaluator of poll results.

Vit Sangvi, a political commentator and editor of the independent weekly magazine, said Sunday: "There will be strains in the alliance all right but they (opposition leaders) will remain united at least for the next three to five years."

Until a few months ago, several Janata Dal members, including senior leader Chandra Shekhar, refused to accept Singh's leadership. Shekhar in turn is disliked by Janata Dal vice-president Ramakrishna Hegde who had once lobbied for the top party post.

An uneasy truce now prevails, and Singh contends that dissonance in the Janata Dal is the sign of internal party democracy. The top leaders of the Congress Party have rarely tolerated dissonance.

Singh's main battle cry against the prime minister is built on accusations by Indian newspapers. The news reports, denied by Rajiv, contend that highly placed Indians received up to \$50 million in kickbacks from the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors when Bofors won a \$1.4-billion contract with the Indian government.

Singh's son, meanwhile, has been accused of maintaining a foreign bank account in violation of Indian tax laws. The elder Singh says the documents are forgeries and not in a court, are politically motivated.

Singh's Janata Dal colleague Devi Lal, chief minister of the northern state of Haryana, was embarrassed last year when the Congress Party alleged his grandson's wife was probably murdered and did not die in a shooting accident as claimed by the family. The police did not press charges.

Hegde has several corruption and nepotism charges proved against him, none of them proved yet by continuing court inquiries. However, he resigned as chief minister of southern Karnataka state after it was revealed he had tapped the phones of his political opponents and party colleagues.

"Corruption and criminal charges can be levelled against anyone," says Janata Dal spokesman Yashwant Sinha. "But the real test lies in the court verdict or people's verdict."

Besides the Janata Dal, the National Front is made up of the relatively ineffectual Congress Party (Socialist) and three powerful regional parties, Telugu Desam and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in the south and Asom Gana Parishad in the northeast.

The Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh state is led by film star-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao, who is also the state chief minister.

Moro leader vows jihad

JEDDAH, Nov 18, (Agencies): On the eve of an autonomy plebiscite in Muslim regions of the Philippines, a Muslim rebel leader pledged today that he will wage a jihad, or holy war, whatever the outcome until rebel demands are met.

Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front railed out any peace negotiations with President Corason Aquino's government in light of the referendum and the so-called Organic Act that gives limited autonomy to Muslim regions in the southern Mindanao region.

He said the Moros' struggle over nearly two decades will go on until the "liberation of Muslim Bangsamoro people from the occupation of the Philippines colonial forces."

In statements to the Associated Press, he vowed that "whether the answer to the referendum is 'yes' or 'no,' it is absolutely meaningless to us."

He called the limited self-rule provided for in the Organic Act a "bogus autonomy and a trap to mislead world public opinion and lure our freedom fighters into the dragnet of the occupying Filipino forces."

Jihad

"Regardless of the outcome of the plebiscite, we will continue with our jihad until our people are free from the colonial stranglehold and we will prepare ourselves for a long and tortuous struggle."

Moro fighters have been ordered to "hit back in kind whenever provoked or attacked," he said.

But Misuari insisted he has "never instructed" his forces "to engage in any form of terrorism."

His movement was "committed to religious warfare," and had "strict instructions to respect and protect the civilians irrespective of their creed or religion," he said.

Misuari spends some of his time in the Saudi Arabian port city of Jeddah, where the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Co-operation has its headquarters.

The OIC has backed his demand for a greater measure of self-rule than envisaged in the Organic Act.

In a statement earlier this week, it criticised Manila and warned that the referendum was hampering peace efforts.

The OIC mediated negotiations between the Cory government and the Liberation Front in 1987 in Jeddah on the basis of the Tripoli agreement.

That was the first peace effort between the two sides since 1976 and brokered by Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Somalia.

This week's OIC statement, issued after representatives of the four countries and OIC secretary general Hamid Al Ghabidi met Misuari, charged that the plebiscite was "a gross violation of the letter and spirit" of the Tripoli agreement.

The Philippines' armed forces chief General Renato de Villa warned Muslim rebels they would face the country's military might if they disrupted tomorrow's vote to determine the future of southern Mindanao island.

Rebels said they killed 16 soldiers and militiamen in clashes in two southern provinces yesterday. The military denied the report, saying no encounter with guerrillas had occurred.

"Those who have threatened to commit terrorist acts should realise they are facing three infantry divisions, three marine brigades, all equipped to ensure fair and honest polling," De Villa told reporters today after visiting Mindanao island.

Reports reaching military headquarters in Zamboanga said the Fortune bus bound for the city of Pagadian smashed into another bus coming from the opposite direction in Kauswagan village, 500 miles (800 km) south of Manila.

The two attacks came barely 24-hours after the TNA rebels attacked four police stations, also in the Ampara district with heavy weapons. There have been conflicting casualty figures with

the officials said, both camps were overrun by cadres and 146 policemen have escaped into the nearby jungles. Sri Lankan troops and police have now launched an operation to track them, they said.

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Trial against Marcos estate

After eight years

SEATTLE, Nov 18, (UPI): A \$30 million lawsuit against the estate of the late Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos goes to trial Monday and could embarrass both the US and Philippine governments with accusations stemming from the murder of union reformers.

However, the federal civil suit against the Marcos estate brought by the committee for justice for Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, union reformers and anti-Marcos activists slain in Seattle in 1981, could fizzle out in a hopeless tangle of allegations.

Or, as the plaintiffs believe, the jury trial in US district court could lead to sensational revelations of US complicity in Marcos' attempts to destroy his opponents — including American citizens living in the United States.

Domingo and Viernes were gunned down outside a campaign union hall in Seattle on June 1, 1981. Viernes was killed instantly, but Domingo lived long enough to identify his killers.

Three members of the so-called "Tulisan" gang based in Seattle's large Filipino community were convicted and sent to prison. But almost from the beginning, the wives and associates of Domingo and Viernes charged the killers were the hired assassins of the Marcos government aided by US intelligence information.

Viernes and Domingo, their supporters argue, were killed because of their opposition to the Marcos regime and because they were leading a rebellion against cannery union president Tony Baraso and other Marcos loyalists.

US government agencies such as the CIA, FBI, Navy, Intelligence and Security Agency and officials such as former secretary of state Alexander Haig and former attorney general William French Smith were named as defendants in the original suit, but have since been dismissed from the case.

But the plaintiffs are still bent upon using the trial to try to show the CIA and other US intelligence organisations had information to the Marcos government about anti-Marcos activity in the northwest.

Committee spokeswoman Sharon Maeda says the plaintiffs' case includes photographs of Baraso and Marcos and a payroll trail of money, paid through a San Francisco company, to Mahabuy Corp., that had a slush fund used to pay for Marcos' dirty work in the United States.

The crusade by Cindy Domingo and Terry Mast, widow of the slain union leader, has been a struggle at almost every step against government obstacles and diplomatic delay.

"This trial is really what our 8-1/2 years of work are about," said Domingo.

The committee went to court to force the US government to turn over documents about domestic intelligence agencies' dealings with their Philippine counterparts.

US district judge Barbara Rothbart read through some 600 pages of classified documents before ruling only a few could be turned over to the plaintiffs.

The Domingo-Viernes justice committee contends that neither the Marcos regime nor the American government wanted the case to reach trial.

"I think both governments did everything they could to stop this trial from happening," said Cindy Domingo, "whether it was refusing to turn over discovery information or giving access to witnesses. But, unfortunately, they were not able to stop it."

The committee and its attorneys have lined up a long list of witnesses, including current and former political and intelligence officials of both governments, to testify about US and Philippine intelligence activities concerning anti-Marcos organisations and the Marcos regime.

The committee also has filed affidavits of Mahabuy Corp. and 1980 and 1987, from his exile in Hawaii where he died earlier this year.

Philippine Congressman Bonifacio Gillego, a former intelligence officer, is expected to testify on Philippine intelligence gathering agencies, both at home and in the US.

Plaintiffs also insist they have documentation of a slush fund set up by the Mahabuy Corp. to fund special security projects for the US. Money from the secret fund, they contend, helped slay the killers.

The case allegedly reaches deep into the current government of President Corason Aquino, to military commander, General Fabian Ver, who served under Marcos. Aquino's government, which also is named as a defendant in the case, has reportedly dropped its legal opposition, leaving Marcos' heirs to shoulder almost all of the defence.

Spokespersons for the Marcos family and other defendants have denied the Domingo-Viernes committee's allegations. Marcos' coe, in the video depositions, reportedly admitted monitoring activities against his government, but denied any direct knowledge of the murders.

Maeda says some of the most interesting documents the committee will try to introduce were found among materials taken out of the Philippines by Marcos and then confiscated by US immigration authorities.

Tamil gunmen on killing spree

COLOMBO, Nov 18, (Kina): Over 140 policemen were reported missing after members of the outlawed Tamil National Army (TNA) attacked two more police stations in the eastern Ampara district late yesterday, military officials in Colombo said today.

Hundreds of the Indian backed TNA cadres launched simultaneous attacks on the Sri Lankan police stations at Karaitivu and Oluvil 21 kms north east and east of Ampara respectively, with mortars and machine-guns last night, the officials, who cannot be identified, said.

The officials said, both camps were overrun by cadres and 146 policemen have escaped into the nearby jungles. Sri Lankan troops and police have now launched an operation to track them, they said.

The two attacks came barely 24-hours after the TNA rebels attacked four police stations, also in the Ampara district with heavy weapons. There have been conflicting casualty figures with

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Nureyev performs in Moscow

Star Rudolf Nureyev performs on the stage of the Kirov ballet in Leningrad for the first time since he defected from the Soviet Union in 1961. Nureyev performs with Soviet ballerina Zhanna Ayupova in the ballet La Sylphide. (Reuters wirephoto)

Great wall of galaxies found

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, Nov. 18, (AP) — Astronomers have discovered a gigantic collection of galaxies that they say is the biggest structure ever seen in the universe.

The structure, which they call the great wall, is so difficult to explain that it raises new questions about theories of the origin and structure of the universe.

The researchers reported their discovery in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

The galaxies that make up the great wall form a sheet that is at least 500 million light years long, or 3,000 billion billion miles (4800 billion billion km), and it is 200

million light years wide and 15 million light years thick.

By comparison, the earth's Milky Way galaxy is 100,000 light years across. The entire universe is thought to be between 10 billion and 20 billion light years across. A light year is that distance that light travels in a year.

The great wall was discovered by Margaret Geller and John Huchra of the Harvard-Smithsonian center for astrophysics in Cambridge in a detailed three-dimensional map they have been compiling of a section of the heavens. The structure is so big that it appears to run off the

edges of the map.

Geller said no one knows of a force that could have produced a structure so big in the time since the universe was formed.

"My view is it's something really missing, something we really don't understand," said Geller. "It's not just a more complex version of something we already know."

Astronomers say each new survey of skies turns up still bigger structures.

"This is the latest chapter in saga that's been going on since the late 1970s," said Edwin Turner of Princeton University. "We keep being surprised that we keep

seeing something bigger as we go out farther."

He said theories about how the universe arrived in its current form already have been stretched by earlier discoveries, and it is not clear whether the great wall "will be the straw that broke the camel's back."

Virtually all current theories hold that the universe began with a "big bang" about 15 billion years ago and expanded rapidly into a highly uniform mix of matter and energy.

In their report, the Cambridge scientists suggested building a national observatory to extend the exploration of the universe.

Heart gene site found

BOSTON, Nov. 18, (UPI) — Scientists reported they have found the approximate site of a gene that causes an inherited heart disease, a step that may lead to improved treatment of the illness and more common heart problems.

"We're delighted," Dr. Christine Seidman, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, who led an international team that made the discovery, said. "I think it is a very significant breakthrough."

In a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Seidman and her colleagues traced the genetic defect that causes a condition known as familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy to the so-called long arm of chromosome 14.

The disease causes a gradual thickening of one of the walls inside the heart that impairs its function. Many victims can live for years, but others suffer sudden heart failure or require transplants.

The researchers will now try to pinpoint the specific gene that causes the disease and determine its function. Once they have done that, they may be able to develop prenatal and carrier tests and better treatments, Seidman said.

The isolation of the gene may also lead to new ways to prevent and treat other heart diseases, including common ones linked to high blood pressure, she said.

"The real significance of this work is it will give us insights into the generalized condition of hypertrophy," said Seidman. "We don't have a good handle as to how that actually occurs."

Working with researchers at the St. George's hospital medical

Women twice likely at risk: Women are almost twice as likely to die from heart bypass operations than men, a new study has reported.

But researchers said that may be because the women were older and sicker than men when the procedure was done.

The new findings, presented to the American Heart Association, based on a study of 1,115 men and 482 women found that:

- Death rate during the operation was 4.6 per cent in women but only 2.6 per cent in men;
- Surgery age averaged 68.2 years for women and 64 for men;
- Of those with the worst symptoms, 66 per cent were women and 45 per cent men.

Doctors, moreover, were far more likely to refer men and their women for the bypass operation, the study said.

Another finding was that heart bypass was okay for patients older than 80.

Exercise boosts body defenses: Regular exercise may improve the body's natural defense against life-threatening blood clots, a researcher told the American Heart Association.

Clogs can form on the walls of blood vessels when they become clogged with fatty deposits called plaque, possibly blocking blood flow and causing a heart attack or stroke.

In a study of 20 people aged 25 to 74, Dr. John Stronoff of the Seattle Veterans Administration Medical Center found regular exercise increased activity of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), a natural clot-dissolving protein produced by blood vessel cells.

Promising drug for Parkinson's: The drug deprenyl appears to offer the first effective way to delay the devastating onslaught of Parkinson's Disease, a brain disorder that affects as many as one million Americans, researchers reported.

A major new study of 800 Parkinson's patients found those who took deprenyl would gain, on the average, one extra year before effects of the disease became severe.

"We're very pleased," said Dr. Ira Shoulson, a professor of neurology at the University of Rochester in New York who led the nation-wide government-funded study. "We didn't expect the results to be so striking."

school in London, the royal Victoria hospital in Montreal and the Washington University school of medicine in St. Louis, the Harvard team analyzed genetic material from 78 members of a Canadian family in which the disease was passed down through generations.

The researchers found a distinctive variation in the genetic material on chromosome 14 appeared to be passed down along with the disease, indicating the defect that causes the disease was also found there.

Pan Am bombing inquiry promised

Security to be evaluated

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, (AP) — The head of a presidential commission yesterday promised a thorough investigation of the US government response to the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and told relatives of its victims, "we won't let you down."

Labour Secretary Ann McLaughlin opened the first of several hearings planned before the commission, nearly a year after the Dec. 21 explosion of the Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 270 people aboard were killed.

"We will let the chips fall where they may," Mrs. McLaughlin said, speaking for the commission which includes four members of Congress and two prominent military figures.

She said it would evaluate aviation security, handling of threats against airlines and whether the public should be notified of them, and government treatment of victims of aviation terrorism.

Four relatives of victims testified at the hearing, including Bert Ammerman, president of victims of Pan Am Flight 103, which called for the investigation.

"The American government has broken faith with its citizens. It has turned its back on its responsibility to protect the lives of American citizens at home and abroad," Ammerman charged.

He said those killed were

"caught up in an inescapable web of foreign intrigue, evil forces, unscrupulous airline practices, government double standards, and bureaucratic unaccountability."

In emotional testimony, Victoria Cummock of Coral Gables, Florida, described how one of her three children, 4-year-old Matthew, one morning asked for a gun.

"I asked him why he wanted a toy gun," she said. "He said he didn't want any toy gun. He wanted a real gun to shoot himself so we could all shoot ourselves in order to be with daddy."

Cummock said she did not want the commission to consider the disaster just an "unfortunate isolated incident or an inconvenience."

"We won't let you down," McLaughlin promised.

Relatives of some of the 189 American victims returned last week from a trip to Frankfurt, West Germany, where the flight originated. They have been trying to get the German government to reveal more details about the flight.

Richard Lally, vice-president of the US Air Transport Association, charged there is a "serious flaw" in federal aviation administration security programmes that demand less stringent security measures from foreign carriers serving the United States than from US carriers.

US sends satellite into space

VANDENBERG Air Base, Calif., Nov. 18, (Reuters) — A Delta rocket launched a \$250-million satellite into space today to try to discover whether the universe was created by a "big bang" — a gigantic explosion — about 15 billion years ago.

The satellite, called the Cosmic Background Explorer, went into orbit 590 miles (950 km) above Earth to map how radiation is distributed in the heavens and to test the theory of many scientists that an explosion released vast amounts of heat and energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials said.

By measuring infrared radiation that bounces Earth from every direction, scientists hope the spacecraft, looking like a sleek white wing, will provide details of the nature of our explosion and the processes leading to the formation of the galaxies, NASA officials said.

One of three instruments on the spacecraft could, so-called "look" that may have led to the formation of clusters of galaxies, they said.

Scientists have in the past studied cosmic radiation from balloons, mountain tops and from the Antarctic, where the air is clean. But NASA officials said the spacecraft launched today represented the best chance to far in study the origin and dynamics of the universe.

In the early 1980s, NASA planned buying rockets and decided to launch payloads from shuttles after its booster inventory was exhausted.

After the 1986 Challenger explosion, the space agency admitted it was wrong to rely on the shuttle. But then-president Ronald Reagan ordered the agency to stop launching commercial payloads and give such business to private industry.

After a 30-day shake-down, the solar-powered Explorer will use the three most sensitive detectors of their types to spend one to two years studying cosmic background radiation.

Scientists believe that at the instant of creation, a single point of matter exploded into a hot, dense and extraordinarily uniform sphere of gas containing electrically charged particles. That sphere eventually developed lumps that spawned the galaxies and stars.

The sphere still is expanding. By measuring radiation from the distant sphere, the Explorer will actually look back in time.

WASHINGTON: The US Food and Drug Administration issued warnings today to protect children against polio, scarlet fever and measles but contains nothing but alcohol, water and sugar pills.

The agency said parents should not let their children take the pills unless they have been vaccinated against the diseases.

The pills are being sold in a package that looks like a medicine bottle, the FDA said.

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ATLANTA, Alabama: A man who raped and murdered his cousin while on an 8-hour furlough from a prison work-release centre in 1978 was sentenced in Alabama's electric chair yesterday.

Julius, 43, was condemned to die after a 12-17 min (6:17 GMT) at 10:17 am.

The US Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal Thursday.

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Parents released

Mercy death

LONDON, Nov. 18, (Reuters) — A British judge has released on probation parents who had promised to stop her committing suicide.

Richard Johnson, 52, and his wife Jennifer, 50, told a court in Norwich, eastern England they sat at their daughter's bedside for more than eight hours and watched her die after discovering empty bottles of tranquillisers.

Sara Johnson, 23, had suffered from multiple sclerosis for five years. Her parents said she had made them promise not to summon help if she took a drug overdose.

What you did was contrary to the laws of the country, whatever the moral or ethical grounds for your actions," the judge said yesterday.

He told the couple he would not send them to jail because they had not actively helped Sara kill herself last April.

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Sporadic fighting, blasts in Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 18, (Reuters): Sporadic explosions and machine-gun fire could be heard over San Salvador today, one week into a leftist rebel offensive on the capital.

A light airplane, used by the Salvadorean Air Force to machine-gun rebel positions, flew over the northern sectors of the capital where rebels have been entrenched since they stormed into San Salvador last Saturday night.

The renewed fighting came after a night of relative calm in the capital of about one million. US Ambassador William Walker told reporters yesterday that the latest casualty figure he had from military sources was 208 soldiers dead and 627 wounded, with 676 guerrilla fatalities and 322 wounded.

"I would suspect that when full control has been regained we are going to find a lot of civilians that are wounded and killed," he said. "The figures will be high."

In Washington, meanwhile, a high State Department official and liberal senators suggested that the murder of six priests in El Salvador was the work of right-wing death squads and called on the government to find the killers.

Appearing before a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson referred to the terror of the FMLN (Farabundo Martí Liberation Front) is no excuse for the terror of the violent right.

Six Jesuit priests, including Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the University of Central America, were slain on Thursday. Also killed were the wife and daughter of a university employee.

The Catholic church meanwhile called for an immediate ceasefire, which the auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, Gregorio Rosa Chavez, said the FMLN guerrillas has accepted.

Rosa Chavez added that the response from the rightist government of President Alfredo Cristiani was more equivocal.

Diplomatic sources said most of the 12 foreign Lutherans detained on Thursday night had been freed and would be deported. Police gave no reason for the arrests.

Walker reported pockets of guerrilla resistance north and east of the capital, and although the rebels had shifted positions, the military situation remained largely unchanged.

"They take positions, we take them back, but we remain strong," guerrilla commander Facundo Guardado told reporters in the northern suburb of Mejicanos.

The murder of six priests in El Salvador caps a year that a UN report says brought a "resurgence of torture" by government interrogators and a rise in summary executions by soldiers and death squads.

The annual report by Jose Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, special representative of the UN human rights committee, condemned both the government and leftist rebels for kidnappings and assassinations.

Leading Democratic senators called for a suspension of US military aid to El Salvador following the brutal killing of six Jesuit priests in San Salvador.

"I call on the United States to immediately suspend all military aid to El Salvador," said Senator Alan Cranston.

American Indians

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (Agencies): A Senate report yesterday called for an end to more than a century of government "paternalism" towards American Indians and its replacement by full tribal self-rule.

Menem's rally bid fizzles

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 18, (AP): A rally staged by President Carlos Menem in support of his economic recovery programme fell short of official expectations last night as only about 35,000 people turned out.

Menem had predicted attendance by 100,000 people at the Plaza de Mayo, where he spoke from the same government house balcony on which President Juan Domingo Peron once harangued audiences numbering that much or more.

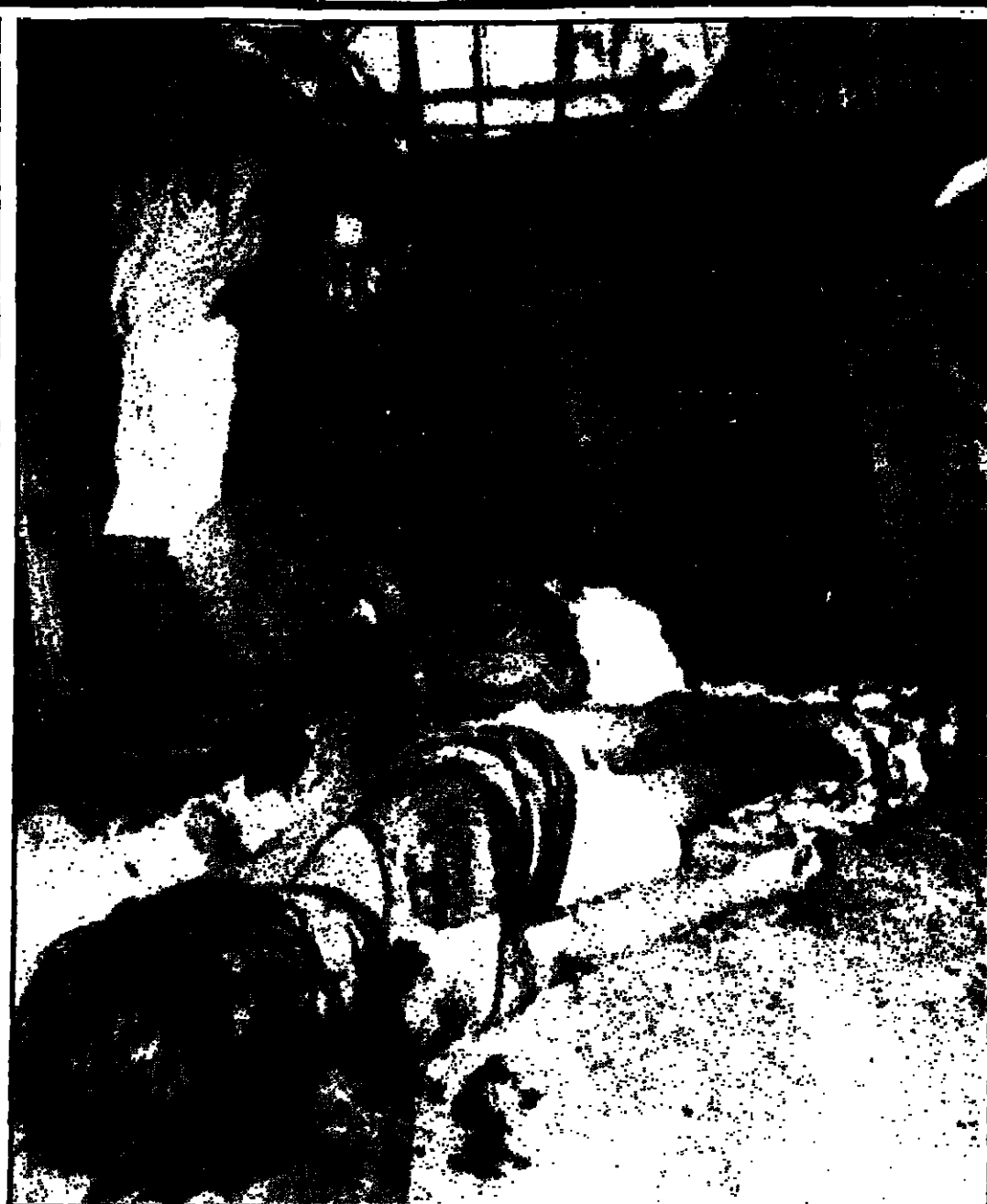
During a 37-minute speech in which he cited Pope John Paul and Peron, Menem said he would press ahead with his economic recovery programme "no matter who cries, no matter what it costs ... no matter who falls."

Since Menem took power last July 8 during an economic crisis, his policies have faced growing criticism from big business, farmers, and members of his own Peronist Party including unionists who helped him win election.

"This is the government of all of you," Menem shouted. "It's the last opportunity Argentina has ... please, brothers and sisters of my country, follow us in this battle."



A supporter of Argentine President Carlos Menem, shouts pro-Peronist slogans during a rally in Plaza de Mayo. (Reuters wirephoto)



A government soldier looks at the body of seven-year-old Amani Wall after unidentified gunmen blasted their house with grenades and rifle fire killing four other members of his family. The massacre occurred while the military was on full alert in the Mindanao region to prevent violence during an autonomy plebiscite. (Reuters wirephoto)



British journalist David Blundy of the Sunday Correspondent of London was wounded in a crossfire in the northern working class neighbourhood of Mejicanos, San Salvador, where heavy fighting between rebels and government forces is going on. He later succumbed to his wounds. Picture (left) shows him lying in a morgue and (right) his file photo. (Reuters wirephoto)



Briton killed

Reporter caught in crossfire

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 18, (AP): A British reporter has become the 17th journalist killed in El Salvador's 10-year-old civil war, shot in crossfire between leftist guerrillas and government troops.

David Blundy, 44, died at Rosales Hospital a few hours after arriving yesterday in serious condition, a British consular official and Blundy's editor said.

Blundy was the Washington correspondent for the London-based Sunday Correspondent newspaper and recently had arrived in San Salvador to cover the renewed fighting for the paper.

A sniper's bullet hit Blundy in the Mejanos districts of San Salvador as he and several other journalists were stopped by soldiers from getting too close to the battleground, said Peter Cole, Blundy's editor in London.

"A single shot came from a building opposite," Cole said. "Everyone fell to the ground,

there was a burst of gunfire and after that, when the shooting stopped, the others got up but David was still down."

Blundy had been standing at an intersection in the Mejanos neighbourhood — the scene of recent heavy fighting between leftist guerrillas and government troops — when he was shot, Associated Press photographer Matias Recart said.

Recart, who helped evacuate Blundy, said Blundy was shot in the right shoulder. "I grabbed the white flag and began yelling 'Press, Press' and went after him," Recart said.

Along with Newsweek photographers Arturo Robles and Bill Gentile, Recart pulled Blundy out of the area and put him in a taxi.

Cole said doctors removed the bullet that had entered Blundy's shoulder and pierced a lung, but he died several hours after the operation.

Brazil braces up for runoff

BRASILIA, Nov 18, (AP): Conservative and leftist have begun jockeying to form alliances for a presidential runoff election next month, and officials worked to finish counting the votes from the first round of balloting.

Conservative Fernando Collor de Mello led the 21-candidate field with 27.6 per cent of Wednesday's vote, the Superior Electoral Court said with 64.28 per cent of the ballots counted.

Collor de Mello, of the centre right National Reconstruction Party, appeared to have guaranteed first place in the first free balloting for president since 21 years of military rule ended in 1985.

In the runoff on Dec 17, he appeared likely to face off with one of two leftist candidates who battled for the No. 2 spot.

Rep. Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, of the radical left workers party, was in second place with 16.4 per cent. Leonel Brizola, of the centre left Democratic Labour Party, was third with 14.1 per cent.

Left-wing candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva held out a slender lead today over socialist Leonel Brizola in official returns.

The plan to advance the ouster of Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega reflects a new policy that gives the US intelligence agency greater latitude to encourage the overthrow of foreign leaders, said the sources, who spoke on

condition of anonymity. Congressional overseers were presented with the anti-Noriega plan three weeks ago in a presidential legal document known as a "finding," the sources said.

House intelligence committee chairman Anthony Beilenson and two others on the 19-member panel Matthew McHugh, and Robert Kastner — all opposition Democrats — responded with a letter of objection to President George Bush, government sources said.

Police battle youths

Greek student uprising marked

ATHENS, Nov 18, (AP): Police fought running battle in central Athens yesterday with youths accompanying a march commemorating a student uprising against the 1967-74 military junta.

Three riot policemen and a reporter were slightly injured by stones thrown by about 200 people whom the police described as anarchists.

Demonstrators firebombed a police bus, a department store and the entrance of an apartment block before joining the tail-end of a mass march commemorating the Nov 17, 1973, student uprising.

Over 20 young people were killed in the revolt at the Athens Polytechnic which is credited with triggering the military regime's collapse.

The demonstrators were involved in running battles with about eight squads of riot policemen, setting up burning roadblocks and smashing the windows of six banks.

No one was arrested police said.

The annual protest march ended peacefully at the American embassy, reflecting a widely held belief that US support helped the dictatorship remain in power.

The United States has maintained four major military bases in Greece since the early 1950s.

Leftist students burned an American flag at the Hellenikon airbase on Thursday afternoon and 11 students and two policemen were slightly injured when demonstrators tried to break through a police cordon.

The incident was followed by clashes between police and demonstrators outside the Athens Polytechnic.

Tens of thousands of people, ranging from priests to soldiers, chanted "Americans, murderers of people" and "Bases of death out," as they marched to the American embassy yesterday.

Talks on an agreement renewing the lease on the bases have been frozen since June, when former socialist premier Andreas Papandreu lost power to a conservative-communist coalition.

The matter has also been the centre of negotiations between parties for the formation of a governing alliance following inconclusive Nov 5 elections.

Meanwhile, political party leaders failed to form a joint government yesterday, postponing a decision that might end the political deadlock following inconclusive elections on Nov 5.

"The political consultations will continue on Monday at noon," Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis told reporters after he and his socialist and communist counterparts met with President Christos Sartzetakis.

Mitsotakis, former premier Andreas Papandreu and communist leader Harilaos Florakis each failed in separate efforts to form a governing alliance that would enjoy a majority in the 300-member Parliament.

If they fail to agree in their meetings with the president, another set of general elections will be called — the third in six months.

None of them gave any indication as to whether there had been any progress in reaching a compromise.

Mitsotakis' New Democracy Party won 148 seats in the Nov 5 elections, but for the second time in five months it narrowly missed a majority in Parliament.



Greek riot policemen charge through pile-burning rubble in Athens while pursuing some 300 anarchists. (Reuters wirephoto)

Freeze on navy action ends: The US navy's two-day freeze on normal operations to concentrate on safety ended yesterday with commanders awaiting the results of the exercises that was triggered by an unprecedented series of accidents.

The operational stand-down was ordered on Tuesday by Navy Secretary Rick Lawrence, Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Carlisle A.H. Trout, chief of naval operations, after 10 accidents over a three-week period killed 10 and injured at least 71. (AP)

Rain alert in Spain: Authorities on the Costa Del Sol declared a state of maximum alert, preparing for more of the heavy rains that have caused at least seven deaths in Spanish Mediterranean regions this week.

In Malaga province, where five people have died, government officials ordered evacuations of riverbank areas, closed schools and warned residents to stay off the roads and in their homes.

Officials in four other southern provinces issued lower level alerts. (AP)

Botswana plane crash: A plane carrying tourists crashed on the way to Victoria Falls yesterday, killing all five passengers and the pilot, wildlife officials said.

Radio Botswana said the tourists, five men and two women, were believed to be West German and the pilot was South African.

The report said the plane, identified as belonging to Botswana Safaris, crashed at 3:50 pm (13:50 GMT) in the Kasungu area of northern Botswana, while flying from Khwai to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. (AP)

Doublespeak Award for Exxon Corp: A national group of English teachers gave its annual "Doublespeak Award" yesterday to Exxon Corp. for calling some 35 miles (60 km) of Alaskan beaches "environmentally stable" after an oil spill.

A member of the teachers' group, William Lutz of Rutgers University, said the award calls attention to public language that in the teachers' view is "deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing, or self-contradictory" and has the potential for "pernicious social or political consequences." (AP)

US fighter jet crashes: A US Air Force F-16A jet crashed in Biscayne Bay last morning but the pilot ejected safely and was picked up by helicopter, coast guard and air force officials said.

The 16 million, single-seat fighter went down during a routine training exercise in good weather, the Air Force said. The pilot, Capt. Robert J. Hunsaker, was assigned to the 308th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Homestead Air Force Base. (AP)

US satellite's demise: A US satellite that had been sending back information about the sun for nearly a decade went into its death yesterday and is expected to fall to earth before the end of the month, scientists said.

"They are projecting Nov 29, give or take a few days," said Rander Exler, a spokeswoman for the US space agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or Nasa. (AP)

Soviet MiGs for Cuba normal: Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said that American complaints about the delivery of two MiG-29 jets to Cuba were an attempt to worsen relations on the eve of the summit meeting, Tass reported.

The US State Department said on Wednesday that the shipment of MiGs was "wholly inconsistent" with Moscow's stated desire to promote peace in Central America. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher refused to say how many MiGs had been shipped, but the Washington Times said a squadron was expected.

Joint condom ventures proposal: The Soviet Union could produce better-quality condoms and other needed contraceptives in joint ventures with Western companies, British family planning David Malcolm Potts said.

Potts, president of the private family health international agency, pointed to the attraction of low-cost Soviet labour combined with Western companies' capital to import scarce raw materials.

"In the United States, every other woman will have an abortion in the course of her life; the average Soviet woman will have three and half to seven abortions," said Potts, who recently attended a family planning conference in the Soviet Union. (AP)

Drug trafficking charges reported

Colombia extradites two more to US

BOGOTA, Nov 18, (UPI): Authorities extradited two more Colombians overnight to the United States to face drug trafficking charges, news reports said today, bringing to eight the number extradited since Colombia launched its drug war three months ago.

Manuel Julian Palma Molina and Robert James Sokolowski, a US-Colombian, were turned over to US Drug Enforcement Administration officers at Catam military airport in Bogota shortly after midnight, according to Bogota newspaper accounts.

The two boarded a DEA plane and were flown to the United States, with the first stop in Miami. Neither of the two are on the US list of the 12 most wanted alleged drug traffickers.

Colombian authorities could not be reached immediately for comment.

Palma Molina, captured Oct 11 in coastal city Barranquilla, is wanted by a US federal court in Florida for drug trafficking and money laundering, and Sokolowski, nabbed Oct 20 in El Cerejon coal mines in Guajira state, faces similar charges in a North Carolina court.

Palma was extradited despite his lawyers' claims that he was not the same man sought by US authorities, citing differences in height and colouring between Palma and the fugitive described by police.

Today marked three months following Mafia-linked assassinations of judges, police officials, and leading presidential candidate Senator Luis Carlos Galan.

Eight Colombians now been put sent before US justice since President Virgilio Barco re-established extradition of wanted drug traffickers on Aug 18.

When a president tells Congress of such a plan and presents a finding, lawmakers have no direct power to deny him.

Neither Beilenson nor McHugh would comment on the letter. Calls to Kastner's office seeking comment were not returned immediately. Bush would neither confirm nor deny such a plan existed when he was asked on Thursday.

Meanwhile the State Department praised an Organisation of American States resolution calling for early election

in Panama and condemning "serious violations" of human rights there.

The resolution was approved 25 to 2 by the OAS general assembly on Thursday. Only Panama and Nicaragua voted in opposition.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the resolution repudiates and isolates Noriega and his supporters and is the strongest OAS statement to date on that issue.

Separate CIA IG approved

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (UPI): The House approved a plan yesterday to make the CIA's inspector general independent of the agency, a move opposed by President Bush and the CIA.

The compromise bill worked out by House and Senate negotiators now goes back to the Senate for final congressional action. The House approved it on a voice vote.

Currently the Central Intelligence Agency's inspector general is appointed by the agency's director and reports solely to him.

When a president tells Congress of such a plan and presents a finding, lawmakers have no direct power to deny him.

Neither Beilenson nor McHugh would comment on the letter. Calls to Kastner's office seeking comment were not returned immediately. Bush would neither confirm nor deny such a plan existed when he was asked on Thursday.

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INTERNATIONAL

US aid to Poland, Hungary approved

WASHINGTON, Nov 18. (Reuters) The US Senate completed congressional approval today of a bill authorising \$938 million in aid to Poland and Hungary over three years.

After weeks of delay, the Senate approved the bill by voice vote hours after negotiators worked out a compromise of versions approved earlier by the House of Representatives and Senate.

Senator Paul Simon urged President George Bush to sign it into law before Solidarity leader Lech Walesa completes his US visit on Monday.

"This is a plan to give Solidarity a fighting chance to succeed," Simon said. "It's a wager on Poland's experiment with democracy, and it's an investment in our security."

The State Department said the Bush administration approved the bill even though it disagreed with the amount — double the \$455 million.

The House and Senate negotiators accepted a Senate provision that would cut off the aid to either Poland or Hungary if Bush found they were providing arms to Cuba or Nicaragua.

The bill provides \$857 million for Poland, the larger and poorer of the two countries, and \$1 million to Hungary.

The most immediate aid would be \$125 million in emergency food including corn, pork, beef, sorghum feed grain and butter to ease food shortages in Poland.

Poland also gets a \$200 million US contribution to the one billion requested from the West for currency stabilisation to combat high inflation, 260 million for an enterprise fund distributing loans to spur private business and 25 million for a modern telephone and communications system to encourage commerce.

Hungary gets \$65 million for enterprise business loans over the next three years.

The bill also authorises a variety of smaller aid programmes for the two countries, including \$12 million for democratic institutions, 20 million for environmental work, and 14 million for cultural and scientific exchanges.

Millions The US Senate has approved a compromise \$286 billion military spending bill that cuts President George Bush's request for money for a space-based missile defence system, dubbed "Star Wars".

The Senate adopted the legislation by voice late last night, but then sent it back to the House for final action before it goes to the White House.

The bill slashes \$1.1 billion from the Bush administration's \$49.9 billion proposal for the space defence system, called the Strategic Defence Initiative, in the current fiscal year. But it leaves other major strategic programmes, such as land-based nuclear missiles and the B-2 Stealth bomber, largely intact.

The totals were a compromise between the House and the Senate. The two legislative chambers earlier had approved widely divergent bills.

Defence Negotiators from the Senate and the House of Representatives are calling for repeal of catastrophic health coverage for retirees and nearing agreement on a compromise deficit-reduction package.

Final action on those two bills, which could come Sunday, would free Congress to adjourn for the year.

Walesa A \$31,000 plus pay for the House of Representatives — but only \$8,900 for the Senate — is on its way to President Bush's desk after clearing through Congress in just two days.

The Senate voted 56-43 last night to approve the bill, but only after deciding at the last minute that it couldn't take the political risk of the bigger house-passed pay raise. Instead, senators would keep taking honours from interest groups, a much-criticised practice eliminated by the House.

But the senate didn't cut back the raise that applies to the House, federal judges and top government executives, and the House early today gave the measure final approval and shipped the package to the president. The House gave its approval in a voice vote at nearly 1.30 am local time, with whistling and cheers in the chamber.

Bush said he would sign the bill, which includes a series of reforms of congressional and government-wide ethics rules.

For the House and the other top officials, salaries would rise from the current \$89,500 to \$96,600 by Jan 1 and to at least \$120,800 and probably closer to \$125,000 a year later, depending on government-wide cost of living adjustments at that time.

Bulgarians demand: 'Zhivkov to court'

Biggest-ever protest rally held in Sofia

SOFIA, Nov 18. (AP) More than 50,000 people chanting, "we want democracy," today staged the largest independent protest rally in the history of communist Bulgaria. They also demanded the trial of former president Todor Zhivkov.

Police did not interfere with the crowd, in stark contrast to violent clashes that occurred last night towards the end of a peaceful rally in downtown Prague, Czechoslovakia. There, riot police beat up demonstrators and Western reporters and arrested scores of people.

The emotional gathering in Sofia, organised by Bulgaria's unofficial human rights and ecological groups, was held on a vast square in front

of the Alexander Nevski Orthodox Cathedral. Independent and police estimates put the crowd at more than 50,000. The protest was sanctioned by authorities.

"This is the return of democracy in Bulgaria, and a miracle we have not seen for 45 years," Hristofor Sebec, a priest and a member of the independent ecological group Ecoglasnost, told the Associated Press.

The huge rally, held in sunny but cold weather, came after a dramatic change in Bulgaria's communist leadership.

A week ago, longtime Communist Party chief and president Zhivkov was ousted from all his political offices.

New cabinet takes office

E. German policemen face sacking

EAST BERLIN, Nov 18. (Reuters) East Germany's new coalition government took office today, eager to regain the disenchanted people's trust with radical economic and political reforms.

But as East German Head of State and Communist Party chief Egon Krenz swore in the 28-member cabinet headed by Prime Minister Hans Modrow, 50,000 people demonstrated in Leipzig for more freedom.

They called on Krenz and party spokesman Guenter Schabowski to quit, saying they and others still in power were too closely associated with the old guard leadership of Erich Honecker, who resigned a month ago amid protests and an exodus to the West.

The 500-member Volkskammer (parliament) approved the new government with an open show of hands. Five deputies voted against and six abstained.

Modrow, a 61-year-old Communist politburo member with a reputation as a reformist, made one last-minute change to the cabinet he presented to the newly-vocal Volkskammer yesterday.

Wilfried Posner, head of the Pioneer Children's Movement, was replaced as education and youth minister by Hans-Henrich Emons, a university professor.

A disappointed Posner told reporters later the FDJ Communist Youth Movement he represents in parliament had withdrawn his nomination. He did not say why.

At 40, Posner would have been the youngest in the administration that replaces the 44-strong government of ageing ministers headed by ex-premier Willi Stoph.

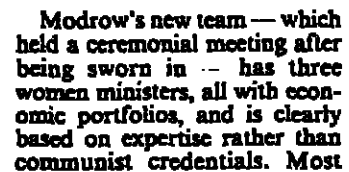
Others in the new cabinet include Dr. Klaus Theinmann, Uta Nickel, Dr Wolfgang Schwanz, Dr Hans-Hoachim Heusinger, Lothar Ahrendt and Dr Dietmar Keller.



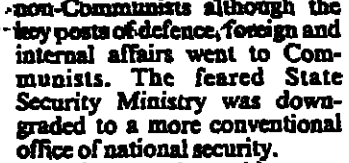
Uta Nickel



Dr. Wolfgang Schwanz



Dr. Hans-Hoachim Heusinger



Lothar Ahrendt

Modrow's new team — which held a ceremonial meeting after being sworn in — has three women ministers, all with economic portfolios, and is clearly based on expertise rather than communist credentials. Most ministers live in the West.

Eleven of the posts are held by non-Communists although the new posts of defence, foreign and internal affairs went to Communists. The feared State Security Ministry was downgraded to a more conventional office of national security.

In the outgoing cabinet one ministry each was held by the four smaller parties — the Liberal Democrats, Christian Democrats, National Democrats and farmers.

Communist East Germany's dreaded secret police will soon answer to Parliament, officials say.

The state-run news agency ADN also reported late yesterday that the department would be reduced by 5,000 employees.

Rush for weekend in West Germany

BONN, Nov 18. (Reuters) East Germans stormed trains and jammed roads today as hundreds of thousands of people streamed out of the country for a weekend in the West.

Frustrated families sat on railway tracks when railway authorities ran out of carriages to take them to see relatives and go shopping in West Germany.

Others tried to beat the rush by peeling into growing Wartburg and Trabant cars and making the long trip during the night.

It was the second weekend exodus since the breaching of the Berlin Wall and the throwing open of East Germany's border.

Crowds stormed 56 special East German trains bound for the West. The Transport Ministry said the situation at some stations was "barely under control" with passengers left behind at several stations.

The ministry, quoted by the East German ADN news agency said trains were being "recklessly stormed" and in some cases packed to up to three times their capacity.

At the town of Pasewalk, people unable to board one train sat down on the track in front of it to demand the addition of more carriages. But none was available, ADN said.

An extra 16 trains were provided to carry visitors from East to West Berlin.

Police from Bavaria to Schleswig-Holstein reported queues of cars up to 35 km (21 miles) long as East Germans jammed all crossing points to get to shops in the West.

By mid-day, stores were doing a roaring trade as luxury-starved visitors spent their 100-mark (\$54) West German "welcome money" distributed on arrival. The number of payout points was increased to shorten the queues.

The Interior Ministry in Bonn said nearly 800,000 people crossed to the West in the 24 hours up to 4 am today, bringing to three million the number of visitors since the border was opened on Nov 9.

In West Berlin, which last weekend saw a wave of visitors flooding in for the first time in 28 years, a bitter East wind kept the numbers down.

Headling appeals from police, many East Berliners left their Trabant cars behind and crossed either on foot or by train. Some underground stations were closed because of overcrowding.

Tens of thousands of East Germans gathered for a demonstration organised by New Forum, the main opposition grouping in the city of Leipzig today.

It was the first time the group, which has spearheaded popular demand for reforms in the Communist state, had received official permission to organise a demonstration.

East Germany was on the brink of a military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters before bloodshed was averted in Leipzig on Oct 9, East German conductor Kurt Masur said yesterday.

Security forces and troops were gathered in the streets and young people "were ready to die," Masur told a news conference.

Unemployed West Berliners were soon working in East Berlin hospitals struggling to replace staff who have emigrated to the West.

Bonn said today it was ready to help finance such a scheme as a humanitarian gesture.

Walesa arrives in Little Warsaw

Chicago dignitaries applaud

CHICAGO, Nov 18. (AP) Polish labour leader Lech Walesa arrived to a traditional welcome from his countrymen late Friday, when some 100 people greeted him at a monument built in his name and dedicated to his efforts as a union organiser.

Walesa arrived shortly before 11 pm (0500 GMT) at Midway airport, where a crowd of Chicago dignitaries applauded as he stepped off a plane into blowing snow and freezing temperatures.

He was whisked away in a black limousine to a park in a largely Polish neighbourhood on the southwest side of Chicago, which has 800,000 Polish immigrants, the largest in the United States.

At the park, Walesa walked up a grassy hill to a four-foot (1.2-metre) stone monument erected in honour of his work founding the independent Solidarity labour movement in Poland.

Walesa was presented with gifts by the Polish Highlanders Alliance of America, a group that works to preserve Polish culture in the United States.



Walesa: happy

Women dressed in embroidered skirts and men in lamb's wool vests gave him a large round loaf of bread, a bag of salt, and a bouquet of flowers. He also was given an ax, a Polish symbol of freedom.

"He is a symbol to us. We call him 'harmash'," said Stanley Dzierzga, vice-president of the Highlanders. "It means leader, and he is our leader, a symbol of freedom."

US plans cuts in defence high-tech development

NEW YORK, Nov 18. (UPI) The Bush administration is planning big cuts in Defence Department programmes that invest heavily in research and development activities at high-technology industries, the New York Times reported.

Reports began surfacing on Monday that the White House directed the Pentagon to cut back financing for high-definition television research and other high-technology efforts, the newspaper said, citing legislators and unnamed commercial lobbyists.

Deputy Defence Secretary Donald Arwood is believed recently to have sent a memo to the Defence Department last week calling for a broad range of high-technology cutbacks in the 1991 budget, the Times said.

The high-technology supporters told the Times that many of the programmes are vital to US industrial competitiveness.



Prague challenge

Two demonstrators light a candle during a rally in Prague. The crowd of protesters marched for an end to communist rule in Czechoslovakia but not police and army paratroopers moved in to crush the

biggest challenge to the hardline communist leadership for 20 years. Many were badly hurt and at least 100 dragged away. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prague Spring to be reviewed

On the verge of reform

PRAGUE, Nov 18. (UPI) The Czechoslovakian leadership, just a day after crushing the country's largest demonstration in 20 years, announced today it would re-evaluate the "Prague Spring" period of reform that ended with a 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion.

The announcement by the hardline Communist Party was an indication Czechoslovakia may be on the verge of joining the reform movement that has swept through the East bloc under the leadership of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The statement in the Communist Party daily Rude Pravo came the morning after army troops in armoured vehicles and police in riot gear quelled the nation's largest demonstration in 20 years, welding truncheons and firing tear-gas to disperse tens of thousands of people demanding an end to communist rule.

Rude Pravo, reporting on a meeting between party ideology chief Jan Fojcik and his Soviet counterpart Vadim Medvedev, said the two sides "dealt with their histories, including 1968".

"They have reached fully identical views and conclusions that without a thorough analysis of the past, it is not possible to set clear intentions and objectives for the future," Rude Pravo said.

Ousted Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek was among those detained during Friday's pro-democracy demonstration by an estimated 50,000 people, a colleague said today.

Vaclav Slavik said Dubcek, cast into political oblivion after the 1968 invasion, was released after three hours of questioning. Dubcek attended the officially authorised part of Friday's demonstration at Charles

University with Slavik, who served as party Central Committee secretary in 1968.

The party daily's language indicates for the first time, the conservative leadership may be willing to admit the invasion by five Warsaw Pact countries in August 31, 1968 was a mistake.

The massive demonstration last night began as a student-led march to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of a student activist, but ended in bloodshed and the arrest of an unspecified number of people as pro-democracy demonstrators chanted "we want freedom" and called for the abolition of the Communist Party.

"Police in armoured personnel carriers literally pinned the crowd in," said Felicity Goodey, a freelance journalist working for the British Broadcasting Corp.

"What they did is made them run the gauntlet between the police."

Witnesses and officials estimated the crowd at between 20,000 and 50,000 people. An unspecified number of people, most of them students, were injured and many were detained, witnesses said.

Activists today accused authorities of lying about injuries suffered by protesters the night before when police used truncheons and dogs to crush the protest.

Official reports said about 100 people were detained, but made no mention of injuries. But witnesses and activists said police beat many demonstrators.

"We know that some of the doctors were asked to rewrite patients' case histories after victims from demonstrations were brought in," activist Jan Urban said this morning.

Romania shouts for help

BEIJING, Nov 18. (Reuters) Romania's hardline President Nicolae Ceausescu, increasingly isolated as reforms sweep Eastern Europe, has made a direct plea to Beijing to join his country's crusade to preserve communism.

In an interview published in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily today, Ceausescu said: "We are extremely concerned about developing co-operation with the Chinese Communist Party and people."

"The two countries must make initiatives to resolve all kinds of current difficulties which would be beneficial to the development of socialism in the two nations and other countries."

Ceausescu did not spell out the initiatives but said they would not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

He described the international situation as "grim" and "complex".

"Now more than ever before there is a greater need for co-operation between communist parties and socialist countries," Ceausescu said.

The 71-year-old leader, who has ruled Romania with an iron grip since 1965, did not refer directly to reforms changing Hungary, Poland, East Germany and, most recently, Bulgaria.

"It is clear what he means," an East European diplomat in Beijing commented. "Romania is the last bastion," he said, noting that anti-Ceausescu protests have broken out in Eastern Europe outside Romania.

Diplomats said Ceausescu had made similar calls for communist unity before but his latest attempt was significant because of his direct appeal to China to join Romania in its self-proclaimed crusade to preserve communism.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car attack in Spain: Suspected Basque separatists opened fire on a car in downtown Madrid on Friday, killing an army officer and wounding his driver, police said.

The police told Spanish national radio the unidentified assailants opened fire on the military vehicle at 5.30 pm (1630 GMT) at one of the city's busiest intersections.

There were unconfirmed reports of a third passenger in the car, an unidentified general who reportedly was unhurt.

Although no organisation immediately took responsibility for the attack, police said it bore the hallmarks of the Basque separatist organisation ETA, which has killed 17 people so far this year in its campaign to secure self-determination for the three-province northern Spanish Basque country. (AP)

UK charity campaign: A charity campaign for children in need launched by the BBC network

has raised over £17 million, it was announced in London yesterday.

The annual marathon television and radio appeal, which is in its 10th year, has raised early today over £4 million more than at the same stage last year. This year's appeal will close in January.

Pledges for money are still pouring in over the telephone. Some of the funds collected will be devoted to help children in poor Third World countries. (Kuna)

UN envoy for refugees: Norway's new UN representative, Thorvald Stoltenberg, was formally nominated by the secretary general on Thursday to be the new UN High Commissioner for Refugees after only two days in his new diplomatic job.

Stoltenberg, who was foreign minister from 1987 until a month ago and defence minister from 1979 to 1981, presented his credentials as Norway's UN ambassador only on Tuesday.



Mladenov

INTERNATIONAL

Isles hold back ties

TOKYO, Nov 18, (AP): A top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev left today after a week of talks in which he warned that Japan was being left behind in a wave of East-West reconciliation.

Alexander Yakovlev, the Politburo member said to be the architect of Gorbachev's policy of glasnost or openness, led a 23-member delegation of parliamentarians from the Supreme Soviet on a seven-day stay in Japan.

In talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and other government and business leaders, Yakovlev repeated his message that Japan's insistence on the resolution of a territorial issue was impeding improvement in bilateral relations, government officials said.

Japanese officials hope that recent Soviet reforms and the Soviet desire for Japanese economic assistance might lead to the return of four islands off northern Japan seized by Moscow in the final days of World War II.

The territorial issue has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending their war hostilities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe told reporters Japan and the Soviet Union have realised the need to "achieve balanced expansion of overall relations." He said these efforts include concluding a peace treaty through resolving the northern territories issue.

"We regard it as the most important issue we have to cope with," Watanabe said of the territorial dispute.

The government spokesman said promoting business relations, mutual visits of heads of government officials, exchanging personnel, and strengthening trust between the two countries were also agreed upon as goals during Yakovlev's visit.

Warming East-West relations "are like a car that is moving very rapidly, but with only three wheels," Yakovlev told Nakayama earlier this week. "The wheel that is missing represents Japanese-Soviet ties."

The Soviet official offered the possibility of a "third route" towards better relations in a visit with a top official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is to pay visits to West Germany and East European countries next December during the convocation of a ministerial conference in Brussels, a senior official at Japanese Foreign Ministry said today.

Wall Street Journal appeals ban

BANGKOK, Nov 18, (AP): A police ban on local distribution of the Asian Wall Street Journal went into effect yesterday, but authorities said they were considering an appeal by the newspaper's editor.

The police special branch said the newspaper, with a normal local circulation of 2,500, had been banned for an article published July 21 that was deemed insulting to a leader of Buddhism, the state religion.

Editor Barry Wain gave an appeal letter Thursday to Interior Minister Pramarn Adirekson and police chief Samphan Sornthaphon, said Lt. Col. Samphan Sornthaphon of the special branch.

Former S. Korean minister dies

TOKYO, Nov 18, (AP): Former South Korean foreign minister Choe Dok-shin, who has lived in North Korea since 1986, died of an "incurable disease" at a hospital in Pyongyang, North Korea's official media reported yesterday. He was 75.

The Korean Central News Agency said North Korean President Kim Il Sung visited Choe in the hospital hours before he died Thursday night.

Soviet Parliament warns Lithuanian party

MOSCOW, Nov 18, (Agencies): Kremlin officials warned Lithuanian communists against going too far in bids for more independence for their republic and their party, members of the Baltic Republic's Party said yesterday.

Lithuanian communists are moving to seek more autonomy for the republic, and plan to discuss the possibility of splitting away from the

National Party. They are also considering a call for a multi-party system.

Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, said he and the entire Lithuanian Party leadership met Thursday with the ruling Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Moscow.

"It went well, it was successful," he told Lithuanian television yesterday. However, a Tass report on the meet-

ing spoke of Lithuanian party's "special responsibility" as "one of the detachments of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

Longinas Vasiliauskas, a Lithuanian activist, heard a report by Kestutis Zalauskas, Communist Party chief in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

He said the Lithuanians told the Politburo that "democratization has gone so deep in Lithuania that not

everything depends on the Communist Party anymore."

Vasiliauskas also quoted Zalauskas as saying Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appeared angry at the start of the meeting.

"Gorbachev was sitting with a very angry face, but at the end of the meeting everything calmed down," he quoted Zalauskas as saying.

Brazauskas, the Lithuanian party

first secretary, said he told the Politburo and the Lithuanian communists needed to have an acceptable platform for local elections in February.

The Lithuanian People's Front or Sajudis, trounced establishment communist candidates in the Soviet Union's first multi-candidate elections last spring, and its candidates are expected to do well in the February balloting.

The politburo objected to any separation of the parties and expressed concern over the central committee election, Vasiliauskas said party chief Zalauskas had reported.

Estonia's parliament compromised yesterday on an election law that triggered nine days of strikes by ethnic Russians who feared stringent residency requirements would deprive them of the right to vote.



South Africa's former police Captain Johannes Coetzee. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pretoria 'had no death squad'

Ex-police chief reacts

CAPE TOWN, Nov 18, (Agencies): Former South African police chief General Johan Coetzee denied today a renegade officer's allegation that an official death squad eliminated opposition leaders.

"The police are there to maintain law and order and just the thought of such a squad would defeat all that the police stand for," the former police commissioner told state-run South African television.

Coetzee was reacting to a newspaper interview in which former police captain Johannes Coetzee alleged he had headed a police death squad from 1980 to 1982.

Coetzee, who is no relation of the former commissioner, left the country last week after giving details of the alleged police assassination unit to the liberal Afrikaans-language newspaper Vrye Weekblad.

"I was at the heart of the whole," he told Vrye Weekblad. "I think the contempt of the things I did... I am guilty of, or at least an accomplice to, several murders."

General Coetzee acknowledged that the police had formed a unit of former African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas to help track rebels entering the country.

He said the so-called Askaris, operating from a farm near Pretoria, were never used to kill anyone.

Police public relations chief

General Herman Stadler said yesterday a senior state attorney would investigate Coetzee's charges along with parallel allegations by a former death row prisoner who said he was ordered by police to kill.

The prisoner, Butane Nofumela, named captain Coetzee in an eleven-hour appeal against his execution. He won a temporary reprieve from the gallows pending an investigation of his claims.

Opposition Democratic Party spokesman Tiaan van der Merwe said the internal government inquiry was not enough. He demanded an independent commission to investigate the charges.

"The total inability of the police over a long period to successfully investigate acts of terror... aimed largely at critics and opponents of the government has left me in very little doubt that such killings enjoy support at some official levels at least," he said.

Anti-apartheid groups say police have failed to solve the murders of about 60 opposition figures since 1978.

The mayor of one coastal town vowed yesterday to keep blacks off the local beach, but elsewhere there was praise for President F.W. de Klerk's declaration that segregation of beaches and other public facilities would end.

S. African warder suspended

CAPE TOWN, Nov 18, (Reuters): A coloured (mixed race) prison warder suspended for helping to found an illegal trade union vowed today to continue to defy South African authorities.

"I don't care if it costs me my job," warrant officer John Jansen said today. "I am not prepared to obey apartheid rules any longer."

He was among 30 coloured policemen and prison warders at the inaugural meeting three weeks ago of the police and prisons civil rights union.

The union, illegal under departmental regulations, was launched by rebel coloured police officer Gregory Rockman, who has since been suspended pending a disciplinary hearing.

Rockman is under investigation for publicly criticising riot police methods, for complaining to newspapers about discrimination in the police force and for refusing to cancel the publication of an autobiography due out next month.

Pretoria denies illegal arms link

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): The South African government says it has no connection with an alleged conspiracy to illegally ship missile guidance equipment worth \$50 million to its state-owned arms company.

Three South African businessmen and two Americans were indicted on Thursday as part of a US customs service sting operation aimed at combating the illegal export of high-technology items and military hardware.

The five were accused of plotting to ship gyroscopes manufactured by Northrop Corp. through Israel to Armcor, the South African national arms company. Armcor, which stands for the Armaments Development and Production Corp., makes more than 95 per cent of the South African military's weapons and sells to 32 countries.

At a news conference, US attorney Jay Stephens said "the inference to be drawn" is that Armcor "either requested" the defendants to get the gyroscopes or that the arms brokers knew Armcor would be an "interested purchaser."

However, Patrick Evans, a spokesman at the South African embassy in Washington, said his country was "well aware" of the US laws and regulations, "particularly in the field of the arms boycott," and would do nothing to circumvent them.

"The natural extension of that statement is that there is no one in South Africa or its agencies who is involved in this matter," Evans said.

Stephens said the investigation was over.

Congress, to encourage an end to South Africa's policies of racial segregation, known as apartheid, in 1986 prohibited the export of a wide array of military items to that country.

An affidavit from a US customs agent contended that the alleged conspirators had supplied material to the South Africans in the past. It reported that one of the conspirators, Frank J. Randazzo, 32, of Virginia, told undercover agents that the South African government is "going to have a lot of business flowing our way."

One of the South Africans charged, Synonne Morris Behrmann, 32, said that Israel Aircraft Industries, a state-owned concern, would help obtain the gyroscopes for a price that would be "very high," according to the affidavit. Behrmann reportedly met with the owner of IAI in Israel, the affidavit added.

The affidavit said the Israeli company contacted Northrop in 1988 and made a request for gyroscopes that "is nearly identical" to those sought by the five people charged.

In addition to Randazzo and Behrmann, those charged by a federal grand jury were: Guy Perfezon, a South African resident and his company, Perfezon Imports and Exports Ltd of Maraisburg in South Africa; Lester George Buckingham Talbot, a South African resident; and Maryanne E. Callaghan of Warwick, Rhode Island.

Boycott of White-owned stores ends

BOKSBOURG, South Africa, Nov 18, (AP): Hundreds of mixed-race people publicly ended a 12-month boycott of white-owned stores today, claiming victory after the government promised to repeal the segregation law that prompted the protest.

Nearly 1,000 residents of Reiger Park, a mixed-race section of Boksburg, packed into taxis, cars and seven buses for a motorcade through the central business district, where relieved white store owners greeted them with welcome signs and free champagne.

Malta summit won't be 'Yalta'

Shevardnadze warns against exploiting Berlin

MOSCOW, Nov 18, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said today some major agreements could be reached at the Malta summit next month but it would not be a second "Yalta."

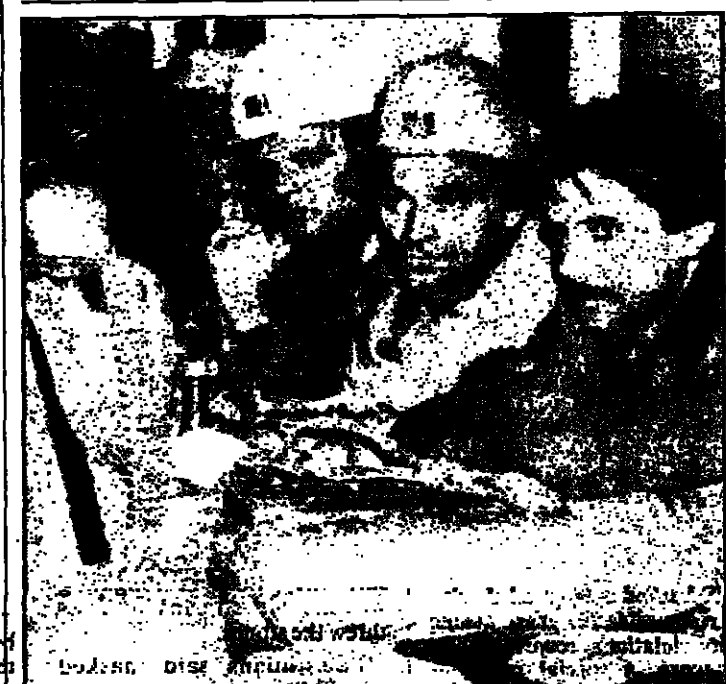
Speaking to an association of women journalists in Moscow, Shevardnadze also said Moscow had appealed to the Western allied powers in Berlin and to West Germany not to exploit the situation in the divided city as the wall was opened.

Shevardnadze said US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would discuss both Western and Eastern European shipboard talks off Malta on December 2 and 3.

But he rejected suggestions that they intended to carve up Europe into accords similar to those made by Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin in 1945.

As Soviet troops smashed their way into Berlin at the end of World War II, the wartime leaders divided Europe into zones of influence at a meeting in Yalta, in the Soviet Crimea.

"You can't compare this meeting with Yalta," Shevardnadze said. "It is a different meeting on a different basis of experience, of multi-level dialogue between two leaders."



Rescue workers wait the signal to go in and attempt to save miners. (Reuters wirephoto)



Family members of miners try to comfort one another outside the coal mine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mine blast kills 91

Tragedy in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Nov 18, (UPI): A fire and a methane gas explosion in a coal mine in the eastern Yugoslav town of Aleksinac killed 91 men in one of the country's worst mine disasters, an official news agency report said today.

Initially, officials could not agree on the death toll in the tragedy, but the official Tanjug news agency today set the death toll at 91. It was not immediately clear, however, if rescuers had recovered the bodies of the victims.

The fire broke out at 11:59 am yesterday in the Morava pit, 1,900 feet (580 metres) underground in the Aleksinac mine, 124 miles (200 km) southeast of Belgrade. It began in transport equipment and electric installations, according to a mine manager.

The fire caused a methane gas explosion and, about 10 hours later, with the fire still blazing, mine officials announced there were 166 miners in the pit when the fire broke out.

Rescue teams then began working to reach the trapped miners and worked to extinguish the fire, as ambulances and hundreds of family members waited outside the Aleksinac mine.

"I was there when the fire swept the pit," a miner, who would not reveal his name, said in an interview aired on Belgrade television last evening. "It just cannot be described. When I arrived there, I saw fire, and other miners were behind the blaze. Nobody could help them."

Yugoslavia's worst coal mine disaster was in 1965, when a methane gas explosion killed 128 miners in the central Yugoslav town of Kakanj. The last major disaster in the Aleksinac mine was in 1983, when a methane gas explosion killed 35 men.

EEC to assess situation in East

PARIS, Nov 18, (Reuters): Leaders of the 12 European Economic Community nations gathered today for an impromptu summit on Eastern Europe but France said there were no plans for a ringing declaration after talks over dinner.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey was first to arrive for what French officials called an informal meeting to review the tumultuous events in the East bloc.

The leaders will discuss ways of encouraging political and economic reforms with EEC funds and technical assistance.

They are expected to study a proposal by French President Francois Mitterrand for a new European investment bank to finance development projects in reform-minded Eastern states.

But although it called the special session, symbolically pressing EEC claims to a leadership role in the new Europe before the US-Soviet summit next month, France said there would be no joint statement and concrete initiatives were unlikely to emerge.

"They (the leaders) will examine how to combine European construction and a new response to the requests coming from the East," French spokesman Hubert Vedrine said yesterday.

President Francois Mitterrand, who holds the EEC's rotating chairmanship until the end of the year, does not want East Europe to dominate the community's regular summit in Strasbourg on Dec 8 and 9.

But French hopes of concentrating on economic and monetary union next month will be unsettled if the establishing phase of change fails to slow.

East Germans—no longer penned behind sealed borders—flooded into West Germany this weekend as their parliament approved a new government with 11 non-communist ministers.

Bulgaria saw its biggest unofficial rally in 40 years today when 50,000 people crammed Sofia's main square demanding free elections.

A similar number marched in Prague yesterday to demand sweeping changes. Czechoslovakia's unbending communist leaders responded by sending riot police and paratroops to crush the protest.

Hungary and Poland remain top of the list of candidates for EEC help, reflecting their head start in throwing out old-style communism.

The EEC leaders will be briefed by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, immediately after his return from a three-day tour of the two countries with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Delors and French Prime Minister Michel Rocard will dine with the 12 leaders as foreign ministers attend a separate dinner at the Elysee palace.

The two groups will then meet for a working session and Mitterrand will chair a news conference at about 11 pm (2200 GMT), according to French officials.

He prefaced his remarks about Malta by saying he did not wish to quarrel with his spokesman, Gennady Gerasimov, who caused the speculation about a second Yalta by dubbing next month's summit "from Yalta to Malta."

Shevardnadze said no agenda had been prepared for the meeting but "I do not rule out there could be some agreements on global problems"—a reference to terrorism, drug abuse and the environment.

"Naturally we can expect some major agreements... I know the mood of the General Secretary (Gorbachev) and I can forecast that it is going to be a very interesting and very useful meeting."

He said Gorbachev sent notes to the heads of government of the Western powers in Berlin—the United States, France, Great Britain—as well as West Germany, many of the Berlin Wall fell opened last week, appealing to them to help keep the city calm. "We appealed to them to help preserve order... not to promote destabilisation."

He said the Western leaders had responded "in the same spirit" but gave no details.

Shevardnadze said he thought what was happening in East Germany, including the mass exodus of people to the West since the borders were opened, was "a completely normal process."

"People are leaving the country but as far as I know the absolute majority are coming back. Many of them are curious to have a look at West Berlin and other cities. Some people may stay there but I don't see much tragedy in that," he said.

He noted that there was also increased emigration from the Soviet Union, saying 150,000 Jews had left in the past eight months.

He said he was a close friend of the new Bulgarian leader, Petar Mladenov. "He is a talented intelligent person. I know his views, they are completely progressive and I would say he agrees with the renewal of socialist society."

Bush said he supports the reunification of Germany, but he said it was a matter for the German people to decide, adding "it's a highly sensitive matter as far as the Soviet Union is concerned."

The United States was disturbed by a trend towards antisemitism that has been noticed in the Soviet Union and some East Bloc countries, a senior US official said.

Gorbachev told the visiting leaders of the West German and French Parliaments yesterday that socialism in Eastern Europe was changing and co-operation with the West was necessary for European stability.

'Mr Shy' wrote love poems

MOSCOW, Nov 18, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze disclosed today that he wrote love poems in his youth but was too shy to have them published.

He revealed the romantic side of his nature as he stepped into his office with members of an association of Soviet and foreign women journalists in Moscow.

Responding to their questions about his private life, Shevardnadze, 61, admitted he penned poetry as a young man but stopped "when I understood that nothing would come of it."

He said he wrote "about various things—about love. There were many reasons for being inspired to write poems."

Renounce rival government to run in elections next year, Burma tells U Nu

RANGOON, Nov 18, (AP): A government spokesman indicated yesterday that opposition leader U Nu can run in next year's election only if he renounces a rival government he declared during political turmoil in 1988.

Col Ye Htut told a weekly news conference that U Nu and other politicians must disassociate themselves from "illegal organisations" if they want to run in the election scheduled for next May.

U Nu, now head of the League for Democracy and Peace, was an elected prime minister who was toppled by the military in 1962.

On Sept 9, 1988, he declared himself premier of a 26-member rival government to reclaim the power he said the military had robbed from him. At the time, the government was in disarray, besieged by hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating for democracy.

Army commander Gen. Saw Maung's troops violently crushed the demonstrations and seized power on Sept 13, after gunning down hundreds of protesters. Since then, they have ruled by martial law while promising a free and fair election.

Ye Htut said that U Nu "himself had stated at a

news conference on Sept 12, 1988, that formation of a parallel government was an action of high treason."

"He has to denounce and dissolve his parallel government publicly and members of his cabinet must also follow suit to clear themselves from illegal organisations as required by the election law," Ye Htut said.

If the parallel government was not dissolved, Ye Htut said, "legal action will follow."

Western diplomats in Rangoon reached from Bangkok said Saw Maung's government has arrested

many political activists in recent months to make sure next year's polling goes its way.

Opposition leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo have been under house arrest since July 20. They head the leading opposition party, the National League for Democracy.

The government said yesterday that the army would remain strictly neutral in elections next May but it threatened legal action against several leading politicians for failing to renounce requests for foreign military aid.

155 من اصل

Denktash opens Cypriot border a little

NICOSIA, Nov 18, (AP): Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash opened the border of his breakaway state a crack this week to allow four Greek Cypriot reporters a glimpse of the Turkish-occupied sector of the East Mediterranean island.

But he told the reporters, all visiting the Turkish-held northern one-third of the war-divided island for the first time in 15 years, that there appeared to be no imminent prospect of a breakthrough in

efforts to reunite Cyprus. Cyprus has been divided since July 1974, when the Turkish Army invaded in the wake of a short-lived, Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece. The 130,000-strong Turkish Cypriot minority declared their own breakaway state in the north Nov 15, 1983.

In a further liberalizing move, Denktash said that Greek Cypriot journalists and others "with legitimate business to come to the north... will be allowed to

look around or visit us."

But he said that a general ban on Greek Cypriots entering the Turkish-occupied north will remain.

United Nations personnel and other nationals are permitted to cross the dividing green line.

The slight relaxation coincided with the sixth anniversary of the proclamation of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic, which is recognised only by

Turkey.

While the north celebrated, thousands of Greek Cypriots demonstrated in the south demanding implementation of UN resolutions.

These call for the withdrawal of some 30,000 Turkish troops from the north and the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriots who fled or were expelled from the north, about two-fifths of the Greek-speaking majority. Some 70,000 Turkish Cypriots also moved north in 1974.

President George Vassiliou has asked the United States and Soviet leaders to include Cyprus in the international issues they will discuss at their summit meeting next month, government spokesman Akis Fantis said.

Fantis confirmed a local newspaper saying Vassiliou had sent messages to Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, who plan to meet at sea off the Mediterranean island of Malta early in December.



Masked Palestinians wear Israeli Army uniforms as they link hands during a parade marking the anniversary of Palestinian declaration of statehood (Reuters wirephoto)

Arabs stage army parade

Masked activists kill Gaza woman

SURIF, West Bank, Nov 18, (Agencies): Masked Arabs with swords paraded in Israeli army uniforms in this West Bank village yesterday to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of statehood.

Other Arabs clashed with troops in the occupied territories where Palestinian leaders had called for a week of demonstrations to mark the Nov 15 anniversary.

In Surif village, some 500 youths carrying the outlawed Palestinian flag and coloured balloons staged the anniversary march, led by a group of activists wearing the Israeli uniforms and carrying swords and binoculars.

The march lasted for over an hour but broke up without incident after Israeli troops arrived.

A Palestinian kept alive more than three weeks by a hospital respirator died today of injuries which relatives said he suffered when Jewish settlers stoned his car in the occupied West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, masked Palestinian activists hanged to death an Arab woman during the night and residents predicted a fresh wave of attacks on suspected collaborators with Israel.

The Israeli army today ended a four-day curfew imposed on most of the Gaza Strip to aid a search for gunmen who killed two soldiers and to quash unrest on a nationalist holiday.

Relatives said Issa Subeihi, 30, was fatally injured by stones Jewish settlers threw at his car in the town in Halhoul, near Hebron, on October 24.

Doctors at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital said Subeihi died of head injuries caused by stones.

Police, however, said his injuries resulted from a car crash which followed the attack. They said they were investigating whether Palestinians or Jews threw the stones.

Palestinians said masked youths in the Rafah refugee camp killed Attiaf An Najjar, 40, during the night on suspicion he helped Israeli authorities and for immoral behaviour.

Palestinian activists have attacked at least eight suspected collaborators in Rafah since the

No 'glasnost' in Mideast

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Nov 18, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday the Soviet arms still pour into Syria and warned that America should not forgo alliances just because of changing superpower relations.

"We cannot see yet in our region any signs of glasnost," Shamir told a Los Angeles World Affairs Council luncheon, referring to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness and reform in the East bloc.

In his speech and a question-and-answer session, Shamir was intent on showing that the democracy movement in Eastern Europe hasn't diminished the United States' need for longtime allies and that Israel is its best friend.

"Loyal and firm allies are important to every country and under all circumstances. This applies especially to a superpower and especially because of the constantly changing circumstances. Israel is such an ally of the United States and our alliance is as steadfast as ever," he said.

Israel remains threatened by countries "committed to the annihilation of Israel" and "backed by forces as large as those of NATO," he said.

Syria alone can field 700,000 troops, more than 4,000 tanks and 650 fighter planes against Israel, he said.

On other issues, Shamir again declared that his offer to talk with anyone to bring peace to the Middle East did not extend to the PLO.

President George Bush called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday to discuss the Middle East peace process and brief him on the visit by Shamir, the White House said.

Bush emphasized continued involvement in a search for peace, White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

beginning of November, killing three.

Gaza residents said they expected more killings because underground leaders of the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising had set November 15 as the deadline for collaborators to repent.

"You are given the chance to repent in the mosques until November 15, the anniversary of the Palestinian independence declaration," said a leaflet issued earlier this month.

"After November 15, the Palestinian people and revolution will decide the fate of collaborators who did not repent."

Ethiopian rebels push for capital

NAIROBI, Nov 18, (Agencies): Ethiopian rebels said today they were closing in on Addis Ababa, capturing the garrison town of Meraya just 120 km (90 miles) northeast of the capital on Thursday.

The clandestine radio of the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said there had been heavy fighting but made no mention of losses on either side.

Meraya is in the central Shoa province, the heartland of Ethiopia's politically dominant Amhara people.

The TPLF, which is fighting for a broader based government in Ethiopia, overran the whole of Tigray, a northern province, last February and has been pushing south since August with the help of its small ally, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM).

It claimed its first victory in Shoa earlier this month.

Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government, which seldom comments on the military situation in the civil war, has not reacted to the latest claim.

The rebel radio, monitored in Nairobi, said the TPLF had also beaten back government troops advancing towards Worela, in the Abaye Mada mountains of neighbouring Wollo province.

The government and the TPLF ended a preliminary

'Penned like animals in jail'

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 18, (AP): Afghanistan's government keeps prisoners "penned like animals" in cells where they are forced to stand or squat for up to seven months while they await trial, a UN investigator said yesterday.

US-backed Afghan rebels also are responsible for grave human rights violations, reported Felix Ermacora, a special representative of the UN commission on human rights.

He criticized the rebels' use of US-made cluster bombs, and high infant mortality and malnutrition rates among children in rebel-held areas and refugee camps.

Both sides are using weapons against civilians, and "any such use must be qualified as terrorism," he said.

Ermacora visited Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran in September and October to review human rights conditions and the plight of refugees from the 10-year-old Afghan war.

In Kabul, he found "opponents of the regime are still being tried by special security courts and the procedural guarantees of the accused are not in conformity with international human rights instruments."

The government still is holding more than 3,000 political prisoners in deplorable conditions, he said.

"They are kept like animals in small cells or rooms where they have to stand or squat for an unspecified period of time (often as long as seven months) behind iron bars, often with insufficient light," he said.

Ermacora also accused the rebels of increased human rights violations since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February.

"Acts of terrorism (against civilians) ... have increased since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops," said Ermacora.

"The city of Kabul is the subject of heavy, daily rocket attacks," he said, citing one example.

Ermacora criticized the rebels for using US-made cluster bombs "each of which contains 97 smaller time bombs. They constitute one of the most frightening types of weapons currently being used in the conflict."

In rebel-held areas and in their camps in Pakistan, Ermacora "was informed about increasing cases of malnutrition, in particular among the children, due to food shortages."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

British nurse under probe: Iraq is still investigating the case of a British nurse arrested eight weeks ago with a British-based journalist accused of spying. Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said today.

"We informed the British embassy with the involvement of this woman in an espionage affair and she is still under investigation," Aziz told a news conference.

Daphne Parish, who works for a private hospital in Baghdad, was arrested in September with Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist employed by the Observer Sunday newspaper in Britain. (Reuters)

Tremors short Tunis mine: Earth tremors in southeast Tunisia forced schools and a phosphate mine to close after the army rushed troops to the area as a precaution, officials said today.

They said 11 tremors measuring between 2.3 and 4.6 on the Richter scale had shaken the area in the last 10 days, causing panic but no damage or casualties. (Reuters)

Swede found guilty in Texas: A Swedish businessman faces up to 27 years in jail and \$1 million in fines after he was found guilty yesterday of selling arms illegally to Iran.

Karl Erik Nissen was convicted of conspiracy, illegally exporting arms and money laundering by a seven-judge, five-man jury in federal court at Corpus Christi, Texas. (Reuters)

Egypt-Iraq joint meeting: The Egyptian-Iraqi supreme joint commission began meetings in Cairo today, one way to boost co-operation between the two countries, mainly in economic and trade areas.

Iraq's First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan arrived in Cairo to lead the Iraqi side to the meetings, the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported. (Kuna)

Surprised by elections' result: King Hussein of Jordan has said the results of the kingdom's first general election in which Muslim Fundamentalist candidates won about one quarter of the parliament's seats came as a surprise to him.

In an interview with the London-based Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat Friday, Hussein described last week's election as an important step in consolidating democracy in his country. (UPI)



Iran urged

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz during a press conference in Baghdad urged Iran to set up joint committee to break a deadlock in peace talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tourist bus accident: A woman was killed and 48 other pilgrims from West Germany suffered light to serious injuries today when their bus fell into a ravine, Israeli police officials said.

They said that the accident occurred on the Masada-Banias road in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and that the bus was apparently pushed off the road by a car that came in the opposite direction. (AP)

Iranian minister in Pakistan: Iranian Interior Minister Abdullah Nouri arrived here last night on an official visit to Pakistan, where he was greeted at the airport by his Pakistani counterpart Akhtar Ali Khan.

Nouri told newsmen that his visit aims at holding talks with Pakistani officials on bilateral relations, particularly in the field of fighting drug traffickers.

The Iranian minister is accompanied by a 70-member delegation, including the commander of the border forces and a number of Shura council (Majlis) members. (Kuna)

No sign of ICRC workers: The International Committee of the Red Cross might withdraw its operations from Lebanon if two kidnapped relief workers are held for an extended period, an official said.

The ICRC stopped work to weeks ago in Sidon, the southern city where Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriqson were seized. The orthopaedic centre where Christen and Erriqson helped fit artificial limbs closed immediately after the kidnapping on Oct 6. (AP)

Arms supplies should stop: The United States and the Soviet Union should stop supplying arms to the warring sides in Afghanistan, a radical rebel leader said on Saturday.

Ghulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of Hezb-i-Islami, the strongest group in the Pakistan-based rebel alliance, told a news conference: "The two superpowers must cease their interference and interventions in Afghanistan. They should cease supplying weapons. (Reuters)

Algerian paper blames Morocco: The official Algerian daily El Moudjahid today blamed Morocco for an upsurge of fighting in the disputed Western Sahara and said Rabat was blocking peace efforts.

Independence-seeking Polisario rebels have launched four major attacks against Moroccan troops in the past six weeks in some of the bloodiest fighting in the 14-year-old conflict.

"It is difficult for one following these sad and regrettable events not to see Morocco's responsibility in what appears to be a blocking of the peace process," El Moudjahid said. (Reuters)

Air force chief in Pakistan: Commander of Syrian Air Force Major-General Mohammed Ali Mahallufi, began his 9-day official visit to Pakistan this morning with a visit to air headquarters, air base Sargodha and joint staff headquarters in Rawalpindi.

At the Pakistan Air Force headquarters he conferred with his counterpart Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah on "matters of professional interest."

Hakimullah gave Mahallufi detailed briefing on different aspects of the Pakistan Air Force, including training, operations and modernisation. (Kuna)

US concern at French Mirage return to Libya

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): France's decision to return three Mirage fighter-bombers to Libya is disappointing, the State Department said yesterday, expressing concern about weakening sanctions against a state it charges supports terrorism.

The partial lifting of a French arms embargo was linked by the department to an accord Libya signed in August for a peaceful settlement in Chad, where French troops helped the government fight a Libyan invasion.

The State Department statement charged Libya is supporting rebels fighting the Chad government in violation of an explicit prohibition in the peace pact.

Also, the department said, Libya continues to pursue development of chemical weapons and to support terrorism — charges Libya denies.

France decided this week to return to Libya three French-made supersonic Mirage fighter-bombers that had been held after being returned to Aerospaciale factories for repairs in 1986.

Foreign Ministry sources in Paris said the return of the aircraft — one Mirage F-1 and two Mirage-5s bought in 1970 — did not conflict with a 1986 European Economic Community decision barring delivery of new armaments to Libya.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the return was authorised after Libya signed the Aug 31 agreement for a peaceful solution to its border dispute

Pak army begins dump blaze probe

CHITRAL, Pakistan, Nov 18, (AP): A special Pakistan army team yesterday began investigating a munitions depot fire that killed as many as 40 Afghan rebels headquartered in Pakistan.

Police in Chitral, 160 miles (250 km) north of Islamabad, said so far 19 bodies have been recovered from the gutted ruins, although as many as 40 people are feared dead. Scores more were injured, witnesses said.

Police officials said the army would investigate the explosion.

The munitions depot, which was located about 33 miles (53 km) southwest of Chitral, belonged to the powerful Afghan rebel group, Jamiat-i-Islami. The gutted depot held weapons earmarked for Ahmad Shah Masood, widely believed to be the most effective rebel commander in Afghanistan.

The United States supplies most of the weapons used by Afghan rebels, who have been fighting for more than a decade

Lebanese peasants defend hashish farming complaining high cost of living

BAALBECK, Lebanon, Nov 18, (UPI): After years of concealing their operations, hashish farmers in the lush, Syrian-patrolled Bekaa Valley are openly working their crops and defending their businesses.

At four spots along the highway leading to the ancient town of Baalbeck, bedouins, their heads covered with Kaf-fiyeh, the checkered Arab scarf, work in broad daylight preparing tons of dry hashish piled in and around unfinished buildings.

"It's my first day here. I'm paid 2,500 Lebanese pounds (about \$5) a day," said

a 35-year-old Kurdish worker, who was using a large wooden-framed sieve to separate cannabis from crushed dry hemp plants. Hashish is made from the resin in the flowering tops of hemp.

Although the man had kept the shop's metal door half-closed, much of the crop was clearly visible — and identifiable — from the Syrian-controlled road yards away.

"The crop is for Abu Ali, the owner of the villa there," said the worker, who refused to identify himself and kept on working, seemingly dazed by the Hashish smell that filled the cement building.

In a recent survey, the weekly An-Nahar Arab international magazine showed that addiction among the farmers in the Bekaa Valley is very high. It said that 30 per cent of the people in an unnamed village near Baalbeck were heroin addicts and the remaining 70 per cent smoke hashish.

Before the Lebanese civil war erupted in 1975, villagers used to grow the illegal plant on small remote patches away from the region's main routes. On several occasions, the army stormed dealers' hideouts. Many were jailed and some on both sides died.

Residents say hashish dealers now pay workers by the hour or day to cut down the hemp stalks, grind and sift the product and make hashish at clandestine laboratories scattered across the valley. It has become a thriving business.

Farmers who earn thousands of dollars from their lush fields fiercely defend their work.

"Four years ago, I decided to repent," said Hajj Issam, 60, as he looked out at a vast, rain-drenched field behind his two-storey home south of Baalbeck. "I decided to plant potatoes."

"But I plunged into poverty. The price

of potatoes was low and the villagers here do not get any form of help from the government or foreign institutions, so I resumed dealing — in hashish to earn more money."

A 40-year-old man, who was overseeing six workers grinding hemp at his shop along the main highway, defended his business, stressing the high cost of living caused by the civil war.

"I don't smoke or smell hashish," he said. "I plant it because I need money."

His wife, who was carrying a baby and his father and sister agreed.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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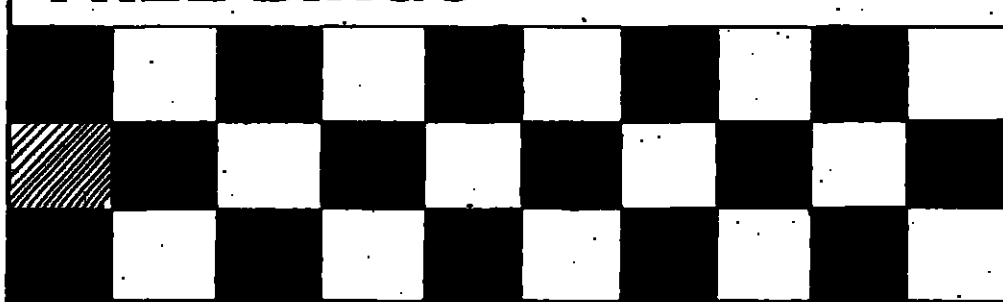
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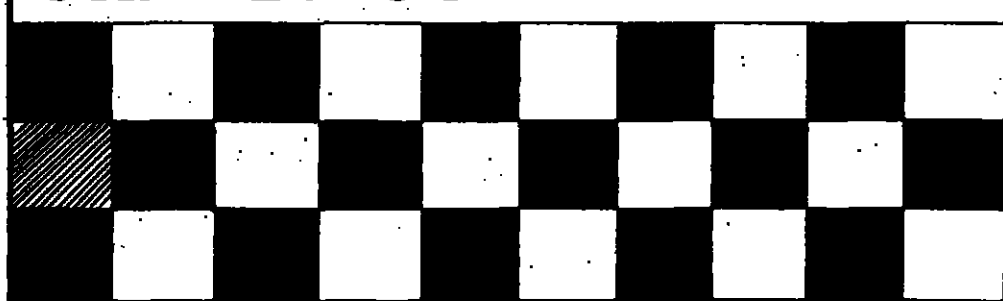
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1. There is no entry fee, but all entries must be on separate ARAB TIMES forms and only entries from one competitor may be enclosed in the same envelope.

2. The number of each day's list will be read from left to right with the left hand number being the first of the day. The order then continues to the right. Claimants with one number will have preference over claimants with two or more numbers.

3. All the claimants' entries will be opened at 1 pm on the day claims are made and depending upon the correct clue and all numbers checked being correct, the last number checked off by the claimant will be the criterion for awarding the prizes according to the priority of the number published on that day from left to right.

4. If there is a tie, the winning name will be drawn from a hat.

5. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Employees of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Organisation and their families are not eligible to enter.

6. No responsibility can be accepted for delayed or missing entries, or altered or mutilated entries although the date franked on envelopes will be accepted so long as it is prior to the competition starting date. Envelopes without names, initials on the back, initials in front, and those received after the closing time detailed on this form will be disqualified.

7. No numbers at any time will be told over the telephone.

8. Claims must be on the same day's numbers. Claims with previous day's numbers will not be entertained.

EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT.

This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safar Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

GCC states plan road network link

Telephone tariff reduced by 30pc

THE Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan has said that the GCC ministers of communications agreed on a plan to interlink the GCC member states by a road network, which will facilitate commercial and tourist transport activities in the region.

He told a local daily that co-operation and co-ordination between the GCC member states in the field of communications was based on a unified strategy derived

from a draft agreement on unified transport communication. This plan was laid down by a team of specialists via the technical bureau of communications emanating from the GCC Secretariat-General.

Technology

Sharhan said that the telephone tariff had been reduced by 30 per cent as a result of co-operation between the GCC countries in this field, and that there was a plan for co-ordination and unification of new

communication technologies imported into the region and to set up homogenous training courses based on the projected use of the digital package system.

Training centres

He pointed out that steps taken in such a direction would pave the way towards more co-operation in different spheres, exchange of expertise, exploitation of all training potentials and other fields of relevance would promote

experience in this field and upgrade services.

Sharhan added that the relevant authorities at the GCC Secretariat General were currently surveying all regional training centres to determine the best possible ways to exploit them, pointing out that there still existed some problems hindering further coordination and unification activities in the field of communications and related services in the region.

Kuwait to attend 31st session in Africa

KUWAIT will attend meetings of the 31st session of the Trustee Council of the Islamic African Centre to be held in Cairo next month.

The undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mohammed Naser Al Hamdhan, said that the session will discuss proposals on the centre's budget for the next year and its Five-Year-Plan. It will also discuss the admission of 220 students selected from 30 African states to the centre.

Hamdhan pointed out that the centre intends to open branches in some other African countries. He said it would also organise educational courses for some teachers in African Islamic countries.

The centre was working to establish a centre for Islamic research to give a true picture about Africa, Islamic activities and population of Muslims in each African state.

He said that 774 African students were getting education facilities and institutes of the centre. These students were from 31 African states.

The centre was working to establish an Islamic base to graduate African teachers of Islam who would also be qualified to work in factories.

The trustee centre holds a meeting twice a year. It is the higher authority that lays down policies and plans of the centre and supervises them.

The centre's budget is independent and covered by members. Saudi Arabia covers 25 per cent of the budget, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE pay 15 per cent each, Egypt, Sudan and Morocco pay 10 per cent each. The centre also accepts donations and scholarships.

The centre aims at spreading Islam and developing Islamic culture in African countries beside training teachers of Islam there.

Taher for Lanka

UPON an invitation from the Sri Lanka embassy, lawyer Khaled Taher will visit Sri Lanka to view the problems of Sri Lankan labourers in Kuwait and to find the most appropriate legal resolutions of these problems. Taher will carry with him several proposals in this regard.



Saud eating a tumbler ... they usually have to be kept locked away.

Saud stays healthy on a diet of glass

SAUD, a 35-year-old who eats glass like others eat apples. He started eating glass as a child and the habit grew stronger with age.

Now Saud is trying to hide this peculiar habit from his children.

Meanwhile, his wife knows that her husband loves to eat glass, and that he cannot stop this habit even if it means, putting his life at stake.

He said that he tried to quit this habit many times but, could not. On one occasion he stayed a whole week without eating a single piece of glass. He said that during that time his body became so weak, he was not able to stand up. He pointed out that he lost his appetite but it came back when he started the habit again.

him by preventing him from eating glass. His friend took him to the Hadi Clinic where he remained under doctors' supervision for two days. He said that during the two days he did not taste any glass. Doctors had instructed hospital nurses to give him meals in plastic containers or dishes.

He added that he went out of his senses after the two days and that one nurse came to take his temperature with a thermometer. He couldn't wait to swallow it. He indicated that doctors felt that they had failed to treat him and gave him permission to leave.

One of Saud's friends at work said that Saud did not leave them any glasses at work which forced them to buy a whole new set of glasses and lock it in a safe.

From the courts

12 years RI, fine for liquor smuggler

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a liquor smuggler to 12 years imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of KD14,000.

Security men had arrested the defendant while he was in possession of a large amount of liquor and narcotic pills. He also had four weapons, a telescope and a number of telecommunication devices.

Investigations revealed that the man, known to be a liquor

dealer, had brought a large amount of liquor by sea and concealed it in his house.

A search by security men revealed 80 liquor cartons containing 960 bottles of whiskey, five telecommunication devices, a telescope and two charging batteries. Under the man's bed they found three leather suitcases containing 240,000 narcotic pills and two plastic bags containing 4,741 narcotic pills. Four weapons were also found.

A KUWAIT court has sentenced a man to five years imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of KD25,000 and deportation after serving his sentence, for attempting to bring narcotics into the country. His two accomplices were acquitted in absentia.

A customs inspector at

Kuwait International Airport told the court that he found a number of secret places containing four bags of heroin in the suitcases of the defendant on his arrival from Pakistan. The heroin was estimated to be worth KD18,516 at market price, and weighed 1,534 grams.

Upon questioning, the defendant said he had received the heroin from a person in Pakistan and was to pass the narcotic to another man in Kuwait.

CID men at Abdali area arrested a man on a charge of hiding 11 cartons of whiskey at a farm in Abdali area.

Investigations showed that some people smuggle quantities of liquor from Iraq by using horses. They hand the liquor to people in Kuwait and then return to

Iraq on their horses.

An ambush was laid for the smugglers, but they succeeded in escaping.

The man was arrested by the CID men after he received the smuggled liquor.

A KUWAITI woman has been arrested by Jabra police following reports from four different people, two citizens and two non-Kuwaitis, that the gold ornaments of their daughters were stolen.

The suspect was identified by a man who said that the woman had asked for a glass of water and when she came with it she discovered that the woman had disappeared with the jewels of her employer's daughter.

The woman was also identified by one of her victims.



Free car promotion

The seventh and last drawing was conducted at Alghanim Car Showroom in Al Rai at 4:00 pm on 15/11/89, for cars bought on 14/11/89. Under the supervision of representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Interior, the winning name was drawn. The winner was Mohammed Ali Fajri Al Fajri with Chevrolet Caprice LS 1990.

With this last drawing, the total number of winners are seven. The previous winners are as follows:
First drawing: Abdulla Mutlaq Al-Munayar with Chevrolet Caprice LS1990

Second drawing: Bandar Saud Abo Karisha with Chevrolet Caprice LT 1990

Third drawing: Ahmad Sayed Yusuf with Chevrolet Caprice LS1990

Fourth drawing: Mohammad Y. Mushari Al Rawdan with Chevrolet Suburban 1990

Fifth drawing: Jamal Mutri Al Fadli with Chevrolet Beretta GT

Sixth drawing: Mohammad A. Salem Al Wokays with Cadillac Eldorado

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons congratulates all the above winners and thanks all the other participants wishing them good luck in future contests.

1350 1000

Kuwait still effective element in Gulf peace: Salem

Finnish expertise in civil defence explored

HELSINKI, Nov 18, (Kuna): Kuwait Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah left here today concluding a five-day official visit to Finland in response to an invitation extended to him by his Finnish counterpart Jarmo Rantanen.

During his stay, Sheikh Salem held a series of talks with Finnish officials topped by Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, where discussions centred on ways of co-operation between the two countries in the fields of civil defence, transportation and combat against drugs and terrorism.

The Kuwaiti official was seen off at the airport by his Finnish counterpart, the Kuwaiti non-resident Ambassador Abdul Muhaimin Al Dattaj and other Interior Ministry officials.

Sheikh Salem, in an interview with Finnish television Friday night, said that his visit to Helsinki aimed at exploring latest Finnish expertise in

civil defence and other police matters. He said his discussions with Finnish officials tackled several questions related to security such as terrorism in all its forms and combatting drugs.

Terrorism

Salem underlined that besides existing relations between the two countries' interior ministries, Finnish experts were being employed in the civil defence sector and other security

systems in Kuwait.

The minister pointed out that terrorism has become organized and stateless and that a number of countries were using it to attain political goals.

Kuwait does not suffer from "chronic terrorism," noting that the latest such operation was the hijack of the Kuwaiti airliner Al Jabriya on April 5, 1988.

Asked on effects of perestroika on

the Gulf region, Sheikh Salem said that Kuwait was monitoring what was going on in the Soviet Union after the implementation of perestroika (restructuring), and underlined that the Soviet people were the ones to accept or reject that policy initiated by their leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Freedom

He expressed belief that apparently the Soviet Union had accepted such

developments.

Freedom was present in Kuwait since its foundation, adding that "our papers write what they want and we also have great social freedoms and similar economic freedoms in which capital moves easily."

Asked on the Kuwaiti-Iranian relations, Sheikh Salem said that Kuwait maintains good relations with its Muslim neighbour, Iran and that Kuwait "was never at any day a coun-

ter party to any country."

Kuwait was and still is an effective element in reaching a settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict, he asserted, adding that it also sought along with big friendly countries to end it.

Sheikh Salem hoped, in conclusion, that Iraq and Iran would reach a settlement acceptable to both so that the Gulf region would enjoy constant security and stability.

Premier chairs economy meeting

KUWAIT, Nov 18, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah headed the first meeting for a special committee grouping private and public sector representatives charged with studying the economic situation in the country.

Sheikh Sabah told the members of the committee that their efforts are fully supported by the government which is seeking to review the national economy by setting up a strong foundation of solid diversified commercial activities.

The committee is charged with reviewing the current conditions in the market and preparing a comprehensive report for the government recommending best means of reviving the economy and accelerating domestic commercial growth.

Sheikh Sabah also received at his diwan at Bayan Palace today information. Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Al Rashid.

HH also received Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Abdullah Al Othman, Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan and Ahmed and Farouk, Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem and Sheikh Ahmad Al Fawad Al Jaber.

Turkey talk at Kuwait International

WITH so many exciting things happening one after another everyone is talking turkey at the Kuwait International Hotel and the kitchen brigade is talking louder than most.

Well, for the first event, which is Thanksgiving, they decided not to do anything in half measures and assigned Food & Beverage Manager, Michael Strobl, to find the largest turkey on the market. The obvious place to find a monster bird was at Leacroft Turkeys, England where the world's heaviest turkeys are reared and they hold the world record with a 78 1/2 pounder.

The turkey that they have produced for the Kuwait International is a slightly slimmer version of the world champion weighing in at only 67 pounds and 1/2 ounce... and measuring almost two feet from top to tail!



Amir receives Nawaf, governors

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received yesterday the Minister of Defence and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah and governors of the five governorates of Kuwait.

The governors introduced to the Amir members of the governorate councils who were recently appointed.

In a welcome speech, the Amir said the new step of establishing councils for the governorates seeks to explore the needs of suburbs and that can be reached through co-operation among members of the councils and the governors.

He pointed out that the experiment will show the quality of work being rendered in the governorates and assist in achieving the best services for the people.

Addressing the ceremony, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad said that the establishment of the councils indicates to the fact that the government is serious to satisfy the needs of the people and the requirements of the suburbs.

He added that the Amir's interest in providing citizens with their needs to improve their performance in society is apparent in his directives to set up these councils.

Discrimination at maternity hospital denied

Fear of Mubarak unfounded: Nusif

FEAR of being hospitalised at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital was groundless, the director, Dr Yusuf Al Nusif, said.

He emphasised that students of the Medical College were never given permission to carry out any surgery or prescribe any medicine. He rejected charges that the hospital was used to experiment on patients and stated that no experiments were carried out on any patients in any situation.

He told a local daily that co-operation between Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital and the Medical College of Kuwait University were excellent and highly motivated and carried out on a personal basis.

He said the hospital administration intends to increase the capacity from 180 beds to 240 beds. He added that this expansion would include the women's maternity, kidney dialysis and nuclear medicine sections.

He said the hospital urgently needed another kidney stones disintegration device, adding there were a great many patients on the waiting list.

He favoured increasing the rates for private rooms. There was a shortage in private rooms for children, he added.

Dr Nusif stressed that services at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital were of the same level and standard as those at Amir Hospital and Sabah Hospital. The service was better in some specialisations, he pointed out.

He reiterated that the hospital administration did not permit students from the Medical College to treat patients, adding some students were appointed only to check the condition of patients.

He said the hospital had specific specialities that were not available at other hospitals in Kuwait. Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital was considered one of Kuwait's training and speciality hospitals.

Most of the specialists attached to the hospitals were non-Arabs with high scientific and technical qualifications.

Discrimination

Meanwhile, the director of the Maternity Hospital, Dr Ibrahim Abdul Hadi, denied discrimination according to nationality in the distribution of doctors at the different units of the hospital.

He told another daily that doctors were moved from one unit to another by the undersecretary of the Health Ministry according to the needs of each unit or centre.

There was a council for different units and it submitted recommendations to the undersecretary about the transfer of any doctor. He pointed out that doctors cannot stay in the same place during their service. Newly graduated physicians should be given a chance to work in hospitals and replace experienced physicians who could go to maternity centres.

Dr Abdul Hadi denied any problem between administration and physician at the hospital.

Investors cautioned on lucrative opportunities

KUWAIT, Nov 18, (Kuna): Governor of Kuwait Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah today advised carefulness and caution in respect of some foreign banks and financial companies offering banking services or investment opportunities either through advertisements in the local press or through representatives staying at local hotels.

Sheikh Salem warned that most of the publicised activities are fraught with immense risks, particularly, he noted, "if such parties do not abide by rules governing such activities to guarantee invested capital which will result in loss of investors' funds."

Of late, some foreign banks and financial companies have been luring local investors by offering attractive investment terms and banking services through advertisements in the Kuwaiti press. Usually they advise potential clients to approach their representatives, mostly residing in a local hotel or give a temporary address.

Ali meets Saddam

BAGHDAD, Nov 18, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi met here today with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

INA said that Sheikh Ali conveyed a verbal message from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah to President Saddam.

The agency said that the message tackled fraternal ties between the two sisterly countries.

Sabah Al Salem residents bemoan services

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of Sabah Al Salem residents to learn their opinions on utilities and services in their area.

They demanded improvements to the area co-operative society and criticised the municipality.

They complained of some improper practices by citizens and requested a bigger number of security patrols and recreational facilities.

Mohammed Al Dashed said that some area residents built high walls around their house yards and gardens. He added that passages between houses were very narrow because most house owners joined some of the passage ground to their yards.

One of the common practices among some residents was leaving their water taps on the whole

day to water their plants.

Regarding the co-operative society in Sabah Al Salem, Dashed said that the administration performance was low and commodity prices were high. He added that some commodities were not available.

He said that some area plots did not have boys intermediate schools. Most residents living in these plots were forced to send their sons to other schools outside the area.

Regarding cleanliness at Sabah Al Salem, Dashed said that garbage containers and bags were sometimes left for days before cleaning men came to pick them up.

Gardens

Unfortunately the area has no public gardens and parks, and he said the area required recreational facilities.

The Sabah Al Salem area suffered from a number of thefts recently and, Dashed demanded a larger number of security patrols in the area to prevent such incidents.

He added that some streets required paving.

He said that one of the good points of the area was the big number of trees lining the streets.

Mohammed Jawad said that Sabah Al Salem Co-operative society offered good prices but lacked many essential commodities. He said that share holders were not treated properly.

He proposed that profits should be collected and applied towards some services.

He also suggested the opening of a night service to fulfil residents needs during late night hours.

Many schools in Sabah Al

Salem are still made of wood, Jawad said and added that some classrooms lack air-conditioning.

One of the main problems most residents suffered from were thefts committed by youths. He hoped for more security patrols in the area, particularly during late hours.

Ali Abdullah Hasan stated that Sabah Al Salem required more schools adding that classrooms were very jammed with students, particularly at the girls intermediate.

He spoke about the bad level of services presented by the co-operative society and said that some of the shops remained unopened for long hours during the day.



Dinner for Indian envoy

Hassan Mohammed Rajah, ex-director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait, hosted a dinner reception for the new Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja and Mrs. Budhiraja, at the Kuwait International Hotel, on Nov 16. A large number of ambassadors attended. Picture shows (from left) The US ambassador and his wife, the host, Budhiraja, Mrs Budhiraja, wife of Tunisian ambassador and the ambassador, the Bangladeshi ambassador and his wife and the Bahraini envoy.

اربع سوالات
1. ایک شخص نے ایک دکان میں ایک کتا لے کر لایا۔ دکاندار نے کہا: "یہ کتا تو بڑا بڑا ہے۔" شخص نے کہا: "جی ہاں، یہ کتا تو بڑا بڑا ہے۔"

دکان فروخت ہے
ایک دکان میں ایک کتا لے کر لایا۔ دکاندار نے کہا: "یہ کتا تو بڑا بڑا ہے۔" شخص نے کہا: "جی ہاں، یہ کتا تو بڑا بڑا ہے۔"

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

NO one can worship God or love his neighbour on an empty stomach — Woodrow Wilson, former US president (1856-1924).

Roh's party in very deep crisis

SEOUL, (Reuters): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo heads off this weekend for a four-nation tour of Europe, leaving behind a ruling party facing its worst crisis since he took power nearly two years ago.

The immediate cause of the problem is the blunt refusal of a politically powerful retired general, one of the president's lifelong friends, to resign his national assembly seat and take blame for a 1980 army massacre.

More fundamentally, the power play marks a new, big stumbling block on South Korea's tortuous path to eliminating holdovers of personnel and practices from the now discredited strongman era of president Chun Doo Hwan.

The latest row threatens to derail Roh's plans to wrap up a political deal with the opposition by the end of 1989 on "liquidating Chun's fifth republic legacy" and getting on with the task of building a stable, democratic state.

Complain

Officials of the government and Roh's Democratic Justice Party complain the opposition-controlled assembly has spent so much time in the past 18 months scratching the sores of the past that the legislative programme has been paralysed.

All sides now agree it's time to act decisively to lay Chun's political ghost. They differ on where to draw the line on the misdeeds of his 1980-88 rule.

In a rare show of opposition unity the "three Kims," perennial party leaders and presidential hopefuls Kim Dae-Jung, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, have set their conditions for political detente.

They want Chun and former figurehead president Choi Kyu-Ha to testify to the assembly on the circumstances of Chun's 1979 coup and on the brutal army repression of a popular uprising in the city of Kwangju in May, 1980, in which 200 died by official count.

The Kims are also insisting that Chung, who commanded the feared Special Warfare Forces that put down the revolt, must quit Parliament, a demand clearly backed by a number of DJP reformers around Roh.

Meanwhile, headline factions in the ruling party, who see Chung, 57, as a good candidate for president when Roh's term ends in 1993, are lending him formidable support.

Like any good military man under siege, the former army chief of staff and defence minister is organising his defences.

Rally

On Wednesday, tens of thousands of supporters staged a rally in Taegu, his provincial power base, to "protect an elected Member of Parliament from political manoeuvring."

Complicating matters is the long, close friendship between Chung and Roh going back to their Taegu high school 40 years ago, and nurtured through long careers in the army.

The pair along with Chun Doo Hwan formed part of the 11th graduation class of the Korea Military Academy, and in 1979 gave crucial support to Major-General Chun's coup against the existing military command.

Since March this year, Chung and Roh have been estranged as presidential aides pushed for the former's resignation as part of an overall package to end the controversy once and for all.

Last month, Chung angrily went public with his resentment, telling his hometown newspaper that a government that could not protect an elected assemblyman did not deserve to rule.

Recently he has multiplied warnings that the military would not stand by and meekly accept the role of "fall guy" over the Kwangju massacre, dropping hints that he could embarrass Roh by revealing who ordered the repression.

He has also furiously denounced Kim Dae-Jung, a native of the Kwangju region and for decades the army's bogeyman, for his populist campaigns against military dictatorship.

Pressure

Commentators say the President, though seeing the utility of Chung's resignation, is clearly reluctant to put further pressure on his friend.

Chung told reporters on Wednesday night: "President Roh appears to have no clear-cut positions about my problem. I don't feel the necessity to meet the President now."

Speaking after days of lurid press reports of his party's disarray, Roh told cabinet ministers and DJP leaders on Thursday: "We must liquidate negative legacies of the past by the end of this year."

He added: "Otherwise, problems of the past will remain a stumbling block to national development even in the 1990s."

While Roh visits West Germany, Hungary, Britain and France, he will no doubt be keeping one eye firmly on political developments at home.

On November 23, meanwhile, Chun Doo Hwan marks the first anniversary of his shame-faced departure from Seoul into internal exile at a remote Buddhist monastery in the eastern mountains.

He too will be hoping that the long controversy over his rule can be brought speedily to a conclusion.

Army gain in East German reforms

Security forces lose out

WEST BERLIN, (Reuters): The wave of reforms in East Germany is likely to strengthen the Army but damage the status and morale of the country's highly-trained and efficient security forces.

Diplomatic sources in West Berlin, citing this Western intelligence assessment on Friday, said there had been no significant increase in the number of East German intelligence agents defecting to the West since the political upheaval began last summer.

But they expected to see more agents coming across as East Germany's new government pushed through the radical measures of liberalisation presented to parliament on Friday.

One reason could be the government's decision to downgrade the all-pervading Ministry of State Security to a smaller office of national security and give a different philosophy.

"This is not just a question of a simple change of name," Communist Party politburo chief Wolfgang Herger told parliament in East Berlin on Friday.

The sources said Western intelligence saw little reason to fear communist countries would take advantage of the mass movement of visitors between the two Germanys to push more spies into the West.

Just as Moscow had made clear its 380,000 troops in East Germany would not intervene to help the old Honecker leadership in power, so the East German Army kept out of the struggle between the reform movement and the political old guard. The East German armed forces have 172,000 men.

The sources said that, while the Army must have had contingency plans to put down civil unrest, intelligence estimates were that the generals had no intention of sending their conscript troops to fire on their fellow citizens.

"They could not trust their own soldiers," one source said. "They feared a mutiny."

The army, in which most East Germans men serve at one time or another, enjoys respect at home and among the Western military community.

If East-West disarmament talks led to Soviet troop withdrawals the Army's status would be further strengthened, the sources said, since it would no longer be in a subordinate position on the Warsaw Pact's western flank.

The army, in the Western estimate, was happy to stand aside and let the much-feared men of the Ministry of State Security take the heat of popular anger.

The cream of the security forces, engaged in gathering intelligence on foreign countries and in a position to understand how backward East Germany was in relation to the West, were not in the firing line either.

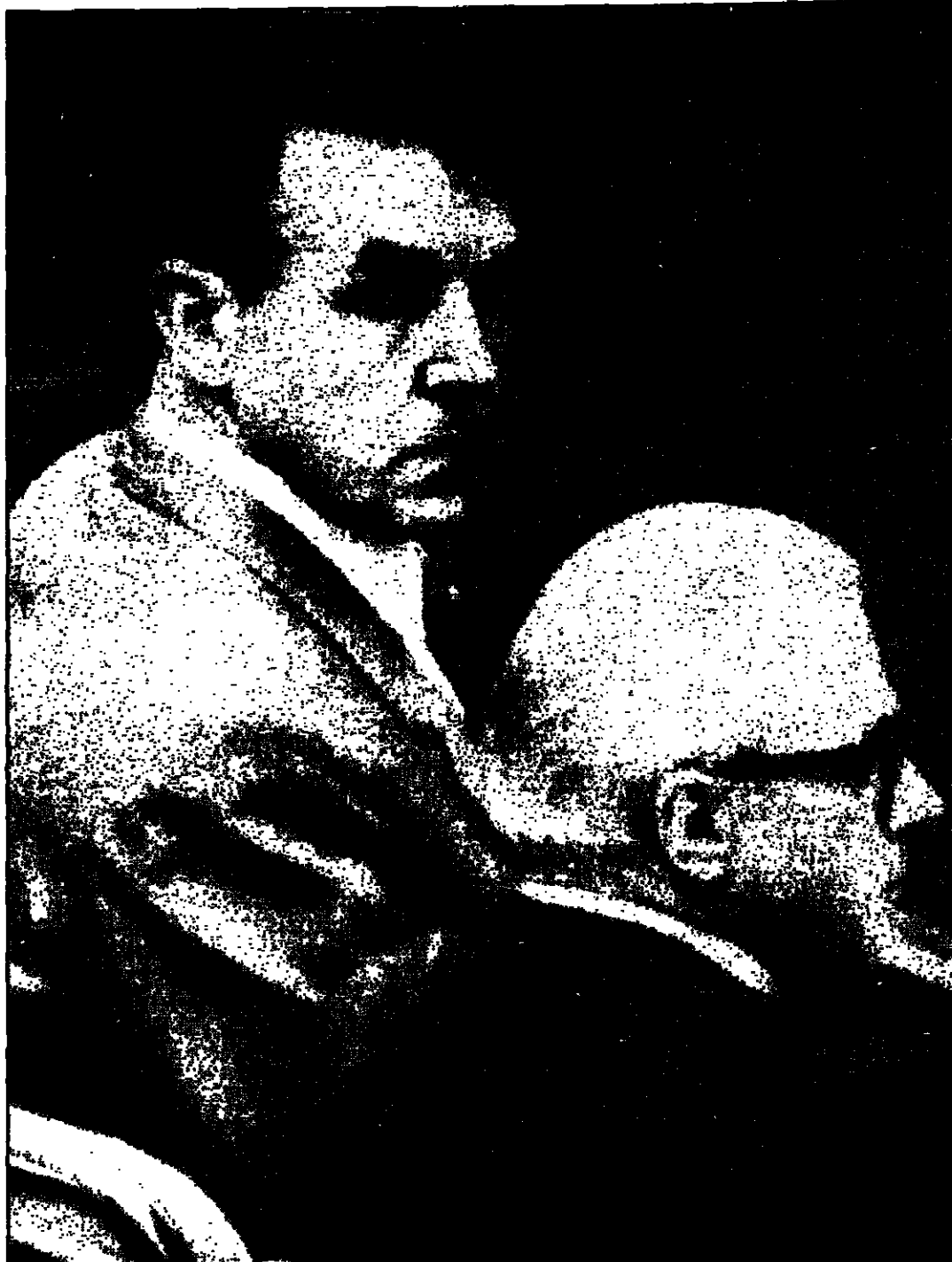
Even under liberalising reforms their role was likely to continue, the sources said.

The people really on the spot were the heavies of the ministry's repressive domestic security apparatus.

Under the new government their role is likely to be diminished, their jobs could be at risk and there could be a settling of accounts with officers who had their task as thought police too enthusiastically.

Herger said the ministry had drawn the right conclusions from violent clashes with protesters last month.

"A new concept of security would make it completely impossible for such unfortunate occurrences to happen again in such a highly sensitive area," he said.



Wolfgang Schwantz (left) who has been proposed as the head of the Office for National Security sits among deputies as East Germany's parliament starts a key session on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

said after the downgrading of the ministry was announced.

East German security men are of two kinds — cadres who make their job a lifetime career, and a variety of contract employees. At home these may just be stool pigeons.

Abroad they are either "illegals" who are infiltrated into foreign countries, notably West Ger-

many, under the cover of regular employment, or "co-optees," East Germans who have a reason to travel abroad as business or academics and are recruited to gather intelligence while doing so.

Since the wave of East German emigration began this summer more illegals has been turning themselves in to the West German authorities, the diplomatic sources said.

Bulgaria joins tide of change

SOFIA, (Reuters): With a shake-out of its old-guard communists, Bulgaria has leaped into Eastern Europe's tide of change after years of lip service to reform under disgraced leader Todor Zhivkov.

Zhivkov, 78, was sacked as the country's president on Friday, a week after he was abruptly removed as Communist Party boss.

He was replaced by new communist leader and Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov, who on Thursday purged the party's ruling bodies of top conservatives and promoted a team of little-known reformers.

"If you look at the list of who is in and who is out, you just have to believe that things are getting better," said a Western diplomat in Sofia.

The star among those elevated to full membership of the ruling politburo was Andrei Lukanov, Soviet-educated like Mladenov and hailed by many Bulgarians as a backer of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

The big task facing the new leaders is to revive an economy burdened by heavy foreign debts, a drought-ravaged agriculture, and severe shortages of energy and consumer goods as well as serious social problems including a housing crisis.

Official opinion polls have also showed a desire among citizens for greater democracy including free elections.

Members of Bulgaria's burgeoning dissident movement welcomed the changes as a sign that Mladenov, unlike Zhivkov, will not just pay lip service to the idea of reform.

"There is no doubt that these changes have come to stay, and everybody now expects the authorities to back their words with real action," leading activist Petar Beron had said.

"These are serious steps towards real, rather than just declared, perestroika," said Chavdar Kiranov, a leading member of the unofficial club for glasnost and perestroika.

For Bulgarians who have watched with envy the profound democratic changes taking place in Hungary, Poland and East Germany, this week's changes in Sofia were long-awaited.

Under Zhivkov, who with 35 years in power was Eastern Europe's longest serving leader, restructuring was limited to confused attempts to enliven an economy rapidly deteriorating as a result of hampered central planning. Democracy and openness were not on his agenda.

Dissident groups say their members have been harassed, imprisoned and expelled for even daring to discuss reform.

Bulgaria's image has been badly tarnished in the past five years by a harsh programme to assimilate the Turkish minority. The architects of the programme were among those purged.

The programme required ethnic Turks to adopt Bulgarian names and restricted religious practices. It fuelled an exodus of more than 310,000 ethnic Turks to Turkey this year.

"It was the Turkish exodus that began the move for change here, sending a ripple of shock and horror through the population," a diplomat said. "After three per cent of your country's people get up and leave you have to expect some sort of comeback."

Already in the week since Zhivkov's departure there have been unprecedented signs of openness.

The state media, formerly silent on dissent, are running lengthy features on popular dissatisfaction with the former regime and detailed interviews with intellectual activists.

"They're coming to me by the dozen and want to ask about everything," said Beron, a leading organiser of an independent pro-democracy rally slated for Saturday.

The rally, expected to draw thousands of Bulgarians to central Sofia, has official approval and details have even been announced on state television.

Only last month, however, a number of Beron's associates in the environmental group Eco-Glasnost were beaten and detained in central Sofia as they gathered signatures for a petition urging greater public debate.

Diplomats and dissidents agree that Zhivkov's removal and the politburo purge were helped along by the fall of hardline East German leader Erich Honecker under a wave of people power.

But they expected Bulgaria, with nine million people the smallest of the Warsaw Pact states, to follow a more sedate pace of reform than is taking place in other parts of Eastern Europe.

"You get the feeling the changes in East Germany are dragging the leadership along there and that nobody is really in control," a Western diplomat said. "I think Bulgaria will do things in a more controlled manner."

"I think what we'll see is a hybrid course between pressure from below that is influencing East Germany and the leadership from above that's happening in Hungary," another envoy said.

Desert war strains North African union

RABAT, (Reuters): With savage desert fighting raging in the Western Sahara, Moroccans are wondering what happened to a rosy glow of North African unity that accompanied February's birth of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Who is arming the Polisario guerrillas? They ask. What is Algeria up to?

Opposition parties accuse Algeria and Mauritania, both partners in the five-nation economic group, of letting guerrillas use their territory. Algeria, for its part, says Morocco is dragging its feet on a Western Sahara peace settlement.

Mauritania is hardly in a position to police the vast, empty regions adjoining Western Sahara. Its puny army has been massed in the south, facing Senegal, since communal violence on both sides of the border in April.

Nor, at the other end of the Maghreb, is all well between Tunisia and Libya, whose long-standing disputes show no sign of going away.

Diplomats say it adds up to the most serious crisis the Arab Maghreb Union has faced since it was created as an attempt to mirror the European Economic Community on the opposite side of the Mediterranean.

The union, they say, will stay together because all the region's leaders support the idea. But it is unlikely to show tangible progress in the next 12 months.

The biggest challenge comes from the resumption

of fighting by Polisario guerrillas battling Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

The way to a Maghreb union was cleared in May 1988 when Algeria, long Polisario's main support, agreed to restore diplomatic ties with Morocco ahead of a final settlement of the Sahara issue.

King Hassan ratified a treaty ending old border disputes with Algeria and in January held his first direct talks with Polisario delegation. A month later the AMU was born at a summit of North African leaders in Marrakesh.

The future of the Western Sahara was left to a referendum to be organised by the United Nations. Members states agreed "not to tolerate on their territory any activity or movement that could threaten the security or the territorial integrity of another member state."

Because Polisario had its base camps in southwest Algeria, analysts and many Moroccans saw the article as the death-knell of the guerrilla front as a fighting force.

The guerrillas now claim to have killed more than 500 Moroccan in four desert battles in the past five weeks. Morocco, calling the attacks murderous and suicidal, reports hundreds of guerrillas killed and 76 of its own troops.

Morocco's main opposition party, Istiqlal, has called for an emergency North African summit to

discuss whether the guerrillas are using Algerian and Mauritanian territory.

In Algeria, El Moudjahid, the official organ of the ruling party, said last Saturday that "Morocco seems to turn a deaf ear to the appeals of the international community to enter into talks with the Polisario Front."

It went on to regret a recent speech by the king in which he referred to Polisario members as Moroccan subjects who have "lost their way" although the vote on the territory's status has not yet taken place.

Morocco's relations with Mauritania — the AMU's poorest member — are also strained.

The recent attacks against Moroccan defence lines have all taken place close to Mauritania.

Mauritanians have accused Morocco of taking a pro-Senegalese stand in the row further south. Demonstrations have been organised outside Morocco's embassy in the Mauritanian capital.

In the east, diplomatic sources say, the Tunisians are unhappy about slow progress on joint projects which Libya was meant to finance and the Libyans are unhappy about the reluctance of Tunis to embark on closer political union.

At a recent democracy seminar in Tunis, Libyan ideologue Ibrahim Abu Khazam, assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, said there were major ideological differences between the two countries.

Heartfelt gratitude

SIR: I like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the head of the fatwa and legislative department, Dr Abdul Rasoul Abdul Rida for his statement (Nov 7) to include "maids" under the new labour laws. Many, many thanks and more power to you Dr Rida.

Actually, everytime I read the "Action Line" about the problems of maids regarding their sponsors, I get so disappointed because what they get for an answer is always "domestic helpers are not included in the labour laws." Now, I'm very happy that among the hundreds of thousands of Kuwaitis, there is still one who is concerned about the welfare of the people in Kuwait even to the lowest class of foreigners namely "domestic helpers."

Not all of us really came here to work as maids. Most of us were cheated by our agencies. We paid for our training as saleswomen, hairdressers, hospital workers, interior decorators and others but after reaching Kuwait we landed up as maids. Since we spent so much to come here for work, we have no other choice than to take the risk in working. Here we have no one to help us except our sincerest prayer. We have to bear whatever sufferings or problems we encounter with our employers.

I thank God for there is one in a million who has the heart to include us (maids) in the new labour law.

Gloria Ambojoo,
OM Khalifa.

Wrong guess

SIR: I refer to the letter "Wrong depiction" (AT, Nov 8) and I like to clarify that the so-called "Assamese" costume girl was meant to be a "tribal lady" in general and by no means an "Assamese girl."

Neither the organisers tried to find out what the particular competitor was depicting in her costume nor the competitors themselves were allowed to make an announcement as the whole competition was meant to be silent show.

It is either a wrong guess by someone or one of those rare cases where the photograph did not match with the title.

This has caused the competitor a lot of inconvenience who is now being wrongly accused of depicting a community which she did not intend to do so. Once again, I would like to stress that the intended costume was a "tribal lady" and by no means an "Assamese girl" as mentioned in the paper.

Tara K. Prasad,
Sahitya.

Unity in diversity

SIR: This refers to the letter Secularism in India (AT, Nov 14).

India is a great nation and Indians are good people. Its civilization being one of the oldest in the world absorbed diverse philosophies and cultures both of the East and the West. India accommodated diverse people of different languages, birth, origin, and races. In fact India is a republic of unity in diversity.

On the other hand, India is known for its caste system, interference in Sri Lanka's civil trade blockade against Nepal. The poor people lose their lands and belongings in default of repayment of loans and interest to the money lenders. Young wives are tortured and even killed for dowry.

Mustafiz,
Safat.

Fundamentalism rising

SIR: During the sixteenth century, India was completely under the power of Muslims. Even then, the old time rulers never destroyed any religious shrine. They never harmed other religions as Islam prohibits such acts. But now, in this 21st century, the modern leader of India, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is allowing a group of Hindu fundamentalists to build a Hindu temple at the site of a mosque sacred to Indian Muslims.

As a result of which, more than 500 Muslims were massacred in the neighbouring state of Bihar. Hindu extremists destroyed mosques and burnt Holy Qurans. Hindu fundamentalism is rising among Indian Hindus and is threatening the way of life of Muslims.

Many Muslim leaders blame Rajiv as the root cause of this communal riot and it's a known fact that he could have halted this foundation ceremony which sparked the violence. But it seems that Rajiv found it worthwhile, for he will be winning Hindu votes. When Rajiv thinks that some votes are worth hundreds of innocent Muslims' lives, I request all Indian Muslims not to vote for Rajiv's Indian Congress or any of its alliance in the forthcoming election.

Habib M. Rishi,
(Quetta).

ALL letters to the Editor, must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the edition process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"Parliament had been deprived of its rights ... (and) turned into a place of power ... Such kind of situation cannot be qualified otherwise but as an insult to the whole nation. This refers to a most degrading deformation, one of the greatest sins which our people and society will probably never forgive. The structures of the state shake." — New Communist Party leader Petar Mladenov, criticising ex-leader Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria.

"In the one corner, Collor, well-born, a golden youth, lived in Paris speaks English and French, wears silk shirts, has the Olympic bearing of a healthy sportsman ... In the other corner, a poor migrant, who took a little operator's course, lost a finger in the (lath-) machine, is fat and flaccid." — Brazilian commentators contrasting between two candidates standing for presidential election.

"I think now we have an experienced team which will collapse psychologically at a big tournament. In this world, my players have built up confidence, which tells them that they can beat any team in the world if they are well prepared." — Yugoslav soccer coach, Ivica Osim, previewing his team's chance in the '90 World Cup in Italy.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1521 — War between French and Valois breaks out in Italy.
- 1807 — France invades Portugal.
- 1809 — French forces defeat Spanish at Ocaña and overrun all Andalusia, except for Cadiz.
- 1899 — Khalifa of Sudan is killed by Sir Reginald Wingate on the white Nile.
- 1924 — Sir Lee Stack, British governor of Sudan, is slain in Cairo, Egypt.
- 1942 — Soviet troops counter attack at Stalingrad and surround German troops in World War II.
- 1961 — About 4,900 Algerian rebels in French prisons end 19-day hunger strike on assurance they will be treated as political prisoners.
- 1970 — Vatican pledges support to United Nations plan for narrowing economic gap between rich and poor nations.
- 1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat arrives in Israel on his first peace mission to that nation and receives warm welcome from principal political leaders.
- 1978 — Guyanese troops raid jungle camp of People's Temple sect and begin to find bodies of hundreds of suicide victims.
- 1987 — Thousands shout for revenge during funeral procession for 10 civilians killed in Iranian air raid on hospital in northern Kurdish city of Bohuk, Iraq.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait trade volume dips

Non-Kuwaiti share market indices rise

THE Alshahi Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Nov 15, 1989 an average of 41.34 points with an increase of 0.12 point — 0.29 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Nov 8, 1989. The Alshahi Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.08 with an increase of 0.54 point — 0.81 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshahi weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 32.65 million shares at a daily average of 6.53 million shares with a decrease of 27 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 8.90 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 9.70 million shares at a daily average of 1.94 million shares with an increase of 70 per cent over last week's daily average of 1.14 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.40 million at a daily average of KD2.08 million, an increase of 1 per cent over last week's daily average of KD2.07 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.410 million at a daily average of KD0.082 million, an increase of 58 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.052 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 60 per cent of total trading against 46 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank had the lead at 30 per cent followed by the Gulf Bank at 28 per cent and the National Bank of Kuwait at 15 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 22 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects had the lead at 60 per cent followed by Coast Investment and Development Company at 20 per cent and Kuwait International Investment Company at 13 per cent.

The real estate sector came third at 9 per cent in which United Realty had the lead at 12 per cent and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 9 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain and Middle East Bank had the lead at 46 per cent followed by United Al Qasbi Cement Company at 35 per cent and Bahrain International Bank at 22 per cent.

The market in general showed signs of increase which were weak for the Kuwaiti shares market and were reflected on two of the top indices while the non-Kuwaiti shares market showed signs of high volatility which were reflected on all its indices.

The market did not have the usual response following certain announcements at the beginning of last week, which stated that new committees will be formed in order to set a programme to implement the recent recommendations. On the other hand, the market responded weakly to the rumours at the end of the week which stated that the government was to implement an official policy of leniency towards people under the debt settlement programme. This led to an increase in both volume of trade and share prices which compensated for the previously weak activity of the market.

By analysing the performance of the market throughout the third and beginning of the fourth quarters, it seems that market dealers are less responsive to rumours and declarations either because they are more aware or because they are afraid of losses. We believe that new policies will be implemented, but these should not immediately affect the price of assets and any such response will be postponed and only last for a short period, the report said.

Kuwait shareholding companies index
Wed. 15/11/89 08/11/89 Change points

| Banking Sector | 124.96 | 124.96 | — |
|--|--------|--------|-------|
| The National Bk | 33.25 | 33.25 | — |
| The Gulf Bk | 24.59 | 23.71 | 0.88 |
| The Comm. Bk | 37.34 | 37.34 | — |
| Al Ahli Bk | 33.31 | 33.31 | — |
| Bk of Kt & ME | 31.29 | 30.86 | 0.43 |
| Kuwait R. Est. Bk | 27.06 | 27.58 | -0.52 |
| Bergan Bk | 87.34 | 85.69 | 1.65 |
| Kt Finance House | 88.78 | 88.83 | 0.16 |
| Investment Sector | 14.69 | 12.86 | 1.84 |
| Kuwait Inv. Co. | 8.59 | 8.59 | — |
| Kt. Int. Inv. Co. | 29.34 | 33.46 | -4.12 |
| IFA | 154.00 | 154.00 | — |
| Comm. Facilities | 55.88 | 56.81 | -0.98 |
| Nat. Inv. Proj. | 91.01 | 91.01 | — |
| Coast Inv. & Dev. | 102.35 | 102.35 | — |
| Real Estate Sector | 38.47 | 38.07 | 0.40 |
| Kt. Real Est. Co. | 40.07 | 40.07 | — |
| Kt. Int. Co. | 25.00 | 25.00 | — |
| Al Ahli Est. | 50.33 | 50.33 | — |
| Warta Est. Co. | 57.56 | 57.56 | — |
| Industrial Sector | 38.72 | 38.72 | — |
| Kt. Real Est. Co. | 16.57 | 17.08 | -0.51 |
| Utd. Realty | 5.22 | 5.60 | -0.37 |
| Nat. Real Est. | 37.43 | 37.43 | — |
| Pearl of Kt. | 71.43 | 71.43 | — |
| Non-Kuwaiti Shareholding Companies Index | 16.88 | 16.88 | -0.34 |
| Kt. Int. Co. | 10.91 | 10.91 | — |
| Kt. Cmt. Co. | 84.55 | 85.63 | -1.10 |
| Gulf Cables | 116.25 | 115.39 | 1.13 |
| Kt. Pharm. | 62.22 | 62.22 | — |
| Services Sector | 28.80 | 28.84 | 0.06 |
| Kt. Cmt. Co. | 151.20 | 151.20 | — |
| Kt. Cinema Co. | 8.56 | 8.56 | — |
| Pub. Whousing Co. | 66.67 | 67.68 | -1.01 |
| Kt. Comm. M. Co. | 34.99 | 36.37 | -1.38 |
| M. Tele. Syst. | 342.86 | 352.38 | -9.52 |
| Food Sector | 60.06 | 61.37 | -1.32 |
| L. Trad. & Transp. | 28.89 | 22.78 | 6.10 |
| Utd. Fisheries | 11.33 | 10.34 | 0.99 |
| Kt. Utd. Poultry | 110.01 | 110.01 | — |
| Kt. Food Co. | 77.01 | 77.01 | — |
| Overall Index | 40.83 | 37.41 | 2.81 |
| Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index | 41.34 | 41.22 | 0.12 |

First G. Bk. 127.18 08/11/89 223.68
Bab. Ind. Bk. 88.38 89.66 -1.38
Bab. Ind. Bk. 88.38 89.66 -1.38
A. Gen. Inv. (China) 45.18 45.94 -0.76
Umm Al Q. Bk. 18.00 18.25 -0.25
G. Med. Proj. 25.25 25.25 —
Total Index 67.08 68.55 -0.54
—Based period 31/12/1988.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Oil ministers to seek joint stand on pollution

ABU DHABI, Nov 18, (Reuters): Arab oil ministers, fearing that world-wide demands for a cleaner environment could hit their nations' pockets, will seek a joint stand on pollution at their meeting in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

But they believe increased demand for oil in reformist Eastern bloc states, sparked by accelerated industrial growth, could offset the decline.

"The environment issue will figure strongly on the agenda of Monday's talks. We are seeking to forge a joint stand toward this problem," said Abdul Aziz Al-Watari, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

The environment will be the main issue during the 1990s," he said in an interview.

"This should prompt us to co-ordinate action and discuss what to do at such debates," he said.

There is growing popular pressure to cut back carbon-based fuels, such as oil and coal, because burning them creates polluting residues and raises the amount of carbon dioxide in the air, contributing to the greenhouse effect and rising global temperatures.

Four Opec states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates — sit on over half the world's proven oil reserves of around 990 million barrels of oil.

"These four states could be affected most as they will be the key bloc among oil producers in future," said Wattari.

All ten nations of Opec rely heavily on oil for their economic health. Other members are Qatar, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, and Bahrain. The last three countries are not members of the world oil Opec.

Wattari also said that the wave of liberalisation in Eastern European countries could push up demand for Arab oil as these nations' economic growth picks up.

"Their production falls short of consumption and this will naturally push up oil imports," he said.

He said he believed higher demand would raise oil prices but said that Opec would respond by raising its production ceiling to match any new demand.

Wattari said Arab producers were also worried that their oil products could be barred from industrialised country markets.

Economic situation improving

LONDON, Nov 18, (Kuna): Head chairman of Kuwaiti Al Ahli Bank Murad Youssef Behbehani has said that all signs indicate that the economic situation in Kuwait is improving.

In an interview with the London-based "Al Sharq Al Awwal" newspaper, the Kuwaiti banker said the end of the eight-year old Iran-Iraq war and the stabilising oil prices are among these signs.

He also cited the near end of the results of the crisis of Al Manakh, the unofficial stock exchange, and the return of confidence to the market as signs for the improving economic situation.

He further said that these signs have been reflected on the performance of the Kuwaiti banks and predicted that the banks would continue to realise good profits because the next decade would witness a boom in the banking sector in the country.

Bright forecast for securities

Kuwait urged to acquire new investment methods

By Mahmoud Abdeen



Richard Bookstaber

Other markets may be important to banks as they should be close to the investment activity, but in share trading it will not be major consideration in the future.

Question: But don't you think that the talk on the financial market in Kuwait is motivated by the inability to compete in the international market?

Answer: What I say is that if the idea behind the financial market is trading and investing, then the talk on a financial centre in Kuwait is wrong and is based upon an incorrect proposition. Kuwait is a unique example on the international arena, as it has an available capital that can be utilised immediately and without restrictions. The references I have heard while here in Kuwait on Japan's huge capital is exaggerated.

We have to realise that the Japanese banks don't have freely available capital like that of Kuwait investment authorities. This is a very important and essential difference as the Japanese banks can only use their funds in a very restricted way. Kuwait, on the contrary, has capital that can be used quickly and in any direction. In my opinion, Kuwait does not need to enter into the international financial arena at the same level of international banks, insurance companies and others, because Kuwait has restrictions on the use of its capital.

Q: What are the main risks expected to face investments in the '90s?

A: There will be no unified standard securities and thus risks will be more clear, whether concerning the interest rates of exchange or inflation. In the case of Kuwait, there is the additional risk of oil prices. In any case, there is no way to avoid such risks or deal with them on the basis of predictions. The diversification of investment sources and the use of hedging strategies can reduce the intensity of these risks.

Q: Back again to the financial centre, can Kuwait be made a regional financial centre?

A: Let me restate what I said before. As long as the world markets are heading towards globalisation and merger, and as long as analytical and information and communication technologies continue to expand, the scope for international competition will be the same whether the investor is in Tokyo, London or Kuwait. Thus the issue is not making Kuwait a financial centre or not, but it is in obtaining the information relating to the markets from various sources.

One of the main features and advantages for Kuwait is its huge capital, but one of its drawbacks is its location. Kuwait can have capital and become a financial centre, but it is in obtaining the information relating to the markets from various sources.

Q: Do you think the stock crash of October 1987 can happen again?

A: Many analysts have dealt in this issue from various aspects. It is clear that the crash was a result of a liquidity crisis, as many dealers decided to go out of the market and the large-scale selling orders were not met by enough buyers, resulting in a drop in prices. Practical measures have already been taken to prevent the October crash from taking place once more. But it is difficult to predict that the crisis won't happen again.

Q: At the moment, the ratios do not appear excessive, said Allen Sinai, chief economist for the Boston Co. financial firm. "But they show the first signs of increases related to a declining business climate."

Robert G. Dederick, chief economist at the Northern Trust Co. in Chicago agreed that on the surface the report suggests inventories are not yet a problem.

style of industrial structure that can accommodate and create new opportunities. There is nothing that prevents Kuwait from carrying out a development strategy similar to that taken by Japan over the last decade, but this does not mean completely imitating their experience and establishing giant banks. Japan has established a huge banking industry and aimed at absorbing the financial surplus from the people with the aim of employing it in huge industrial projects. Kuwait does not need to absorb surplus funds from the citizens and employ them through the banking system. There is no need to develop a system for borrowing. I think that the position of Kuwait in the world capital markets and security markets can increase in the future, particularly if Kuwait adopts the policy of moving its free capital in various parts of the world and acquiring the technology that helps in managing these funds. What I mean here is that the capital and technology are the most important factors, while geographic location and size of population do not have that important weight.

A comparison between securities firms and banks can simplify the issue here. For example, in its securities business Morgan Stanley employs 2,000 - 3,000 employees. While Citicorp, an example of commercial bank, employs 10-20 times more. This clearly shows that funds are more important than people in the securities or related businesses and would fit into Kuwait's comparative advantage.

About the new financial inventions, Bookstaber said that most of these inventions centred on transferring, standardising and packaging assets into liquid, tradable securities like mortgage-backed securities. Another area of innovation is the rising markets for options and futures contracts, and the expansion of swap markets, which enable people to exchange cash flows, thus for example, swapping fixed interest rate investments into ones with floating interest rates.

Competition becomes tough amid a market that has become so adapted to these investment means. In my opinion, Kuwait is adopting a very conservative investment policy and does not attempt to use high technology investment methods. But I find that this policy is reasonable especially when the very future of Kuwait depends upon ability and good management of the investments to increase their returns.

In this case, there is a good lesson Kuwait can learn from the Japanese experience. Over the past ten years Japanese companies have employed small funds — between \$50-100 million, to experiment with new investment strategies with the aim to learn ways to enter growing options and swap markets, and how to adapt to new technology, but without risking their main investment portfolio.

They succeeded in this and became knowledgeable in these fields, and are now comfortable putting many times more capital into these areas. Kuwait can gain something through applying the same style. Small funds and portfolios for research and development can be set up and applied in advanced technology and trading strategies, and can also be used to monitor developments in the world markets.

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Robert G. Dederick, chief economist at the Northern Trust Co. in Chicago agreed that on the surface the report suggests inventories are not yet a problem.

Retail inventories, up 1 per cent in September, were of particular concern since an earlier report indicated they could be worse in October.

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Soviet minister meets Sheikh Ali

KUWAIT, Nov 18, (Kuna): Visiting Soviet Minister of Construction of Oil and Gas Vladimir Chirkov met here last evening with Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa and discussed with him bilateral co-operation between Kuwait and Moscow in the field of oil industry, Kuwaiti official sources said.

No further details were available regarding the talks Chirkov has had with Sheikh Ali.

The Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev and members of the delegation accompanying the Soviet minister attended the meeting which was also attended by Kuwaiti senior officials from the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and other Kuwaiti oil and chemicals companies.

Exploration agreement

NAIROBI, Nov 18, (Reuters): A consortium of international petroleum firms have signed a four-year oil exploration contract with Kenya, according to the state-run National Oil Corporation.

The French company Total and the US firms Amoco, Marathon and Texaco signed a \$17 million, shilling (\$1.3 million) contract in Nairobi on Wednesday, the corporation said in a statement obtained by Reuters yesterday.

One oil industry source said each of the four firms had a 25 per cent stake in the project and would pay a quarter of the total cost to explore oil in Kenya's arid northwestern Wajir and Mandera districts.

Total is the operator (of the project for the consortium) which covers 32,000 square km (12,355 square miles), he said. Amoco has a 21,000 square km (8,108 square miles) block in northwestern Kenya.

The consortium is a joint venture of the four firms and will be managed by a committee of representatives from each firm. The consortium will be managed by a committee of representatives from each firm.

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UK Inflation rises

Air of gloom prevails

LONDON, Nov 18, (Reuters): Britain's underlying rate of annual inflation worsened yesterday, capping a gloomy week for the economy and heightening concern for its prospects next year.

Official data showed overall inflation fell in October to an annual rate of 7.3 per cent from 7.6 per cent in September.

But in a blow to the Conservative government, the underlying rate, excluding home loans, rose to 6.1 per cent from 5.8 per cent, its highest level since February 1983.

Financial analysts said the deterioration in the underlying rate, which the government portrays as the best measure of inflation, placed a question mark against fresh economic forecasts made by new Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major.

He told parliament on Wednesday that inflation for 1989 would average 7.5 per cent and would hover around seven per cent for most of 1990 before falling to 5.75 per cent.

Analysts, who had been expecting a sharper fall in overall inflation, predicted the rate would rise again in November when a one percentage point rise in home loans interest rates is included in the retail price index.

Bill Martin, chief economist at Brokers UBS Phillips and Drew, estimated inflation could reach 8.1 per cent in December and average 7.75 per cent for the year.

George Hodson of bank group

Sterling slips

LONDON, Nov 18, (Reuters): The pound sterling slipped to end yesterday close to its 1989 lows against the West German mark on news that British inflation last month was higher than expected.

Official figures showed the retail price index fell in October to an annual rate of 7.3 per cent from 7.6 per cent in September. Financial markets had expected a figure of around 6.9 per cent.

The underlying inflation rate — the government's favoured measure of price rises excluding home loans — jumped to 6.1 per cent from 5.8 per cent, its highest since February 1983.

Citicorp said Major's inflation forecast for 1990 "is now as likely to be revised up as down."

Major faces a further test of confidence in the economy next Thursday when a current account deficit for October of about £1.7 billion (\$2.7 billion) is expected after a gap of £1.6 billion (\$2.5 billion) in September.

Major became Chancellor after Nigel Lawson resigned three weeks ago over differences with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about the running of the economy.

He has steadied the strained nerves of government supporters

with a solid debut including an economic policy statement on Wednesday in which he promised more government cash for health, education and transport — all politically sensitive areas.

But the crop of statistics unveiled this week have all reflected badly on the government which is lagging in opinion polls and struggling to regain control of the economy in time for elections due by mid-1992.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the main employers' organisation, said sales of consumer goods and cars in October were down on the same month last year and that retailers were gloomy about business prospects for Christmas.

Although the latest jobless figures showed a continued fall in the number of workers unemployed to 5.9 per cent of the workforce, the level is expected to start rising again soon as the government's high interest rate strategy squeezes industry.

Other figures this week showed a rise in average earnings to nine per cent in September from 8.75 per cent in August.

Demands for inflationary wage rises have mounted, despite the government's public alarm.

The pressure has been spurred by 15 per cent base interest rates which mean many families are paying up to £100 (£157) a month more for home loans than they

Help Poland shrug off economic noose, Mazowiecki tells West

WARSAW, Nov 18, (Reuters): Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki asked the West today to help Poland get its neck out of an economic noose.

"We're counting on a serious initiative over our debt, not just to loosen this noose, but to get it off our necks altogether," he told a news conference after talks with European Economic Community president Jacques Delors and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Poland wants the International Monetary Fund to approve a restructuring programme for its newly market-oriented economy. This would be a precondition for rescheduling or reducing its \$38-billion debt.

Delors and Dumas were on the last leg of

a fact-finding mission to Hungary and Poland and were flying later to Paris where EEC heads of government were meeting tonight to review changes sweeping the East bloc.

The EEC Commission is co-ordinating aid for both countries volunteered by the group of 24 richest Western countries and the community is also planning its own aid projects.

Mazowiecki urged the Paris meeting to endorse action for Poland as soon as possible. "I hope they'll understand the time pressure we're under, and go from words to deeds now," he said.

Poland is prepared to try giving the economy a short, sharp shock treatment to increase production and curb inflation

currently running at an annual rate of about 300 per cent. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz told Delors and Dumas.

Delors said a pact with the IMF was the key to setting the Polish economy on a firm basis for restructuring.

The European Commission is promoting a hard-currency stabilisation fund of about \$1 billion to help restore Poles' confidence in their currency, he said.

This would encourage them to surrender hard currency earnings to the Polish banking system, confident they could get their savings out at stable exchange rates when they wanted.

Delors also unveiled a plan for a new bank, to be run jointly by the community

and Poland, which would provide Western expertise to help Poland set up a modern banking system and facilitate EEC investment in Poland.

A group of experts has started work on the project which could get off the ground early next year.

Delors promised Poland a second tranche of emergency food aid, with deliveries starting next year. The community is currently delivering \$120 million worth of free grain, meat, oil and fruit.

Reforming the country's fragmented, antiquated agriculture is a priority with which the community would help, he said. Despite Poland's enormous potential, it has constantly failed to satisfy the 38-million population's food needs.

BUSINESS

Ryzhkov balks at miners' pressure

MOSCOW, Nov 18, (UPI): Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, in "complicated, difficult," talks with striking coal miners, said today the government will not be rushed into fulfilling pledges it made during nation-wide coal strikes this summer.

Ryzhkov also told the colliers they have not upheld their end up the bargain with the government, negotiated during the unprecedented July strikes and sealed in August by parliament, because coal production is 14 million tons below centrally planned outputs.

Thousands of miners in the Arctic Vorkuta region, 1,750 kilometres (1,100 mi) northeast of Moscow on the Kara Sea, had ignored a Nov 6 telegram in which Ryzhkov warned their strike could "lead to extremely grave results" at the onset of the harsh Russian winter.

Ryzhkov met with the Vorkuta miners yesterday on the 24th day of their protest, staged in defiance of a recent national ban on strikes in key industries, at a Kremlin session also attended by delegates from coal regions throughout the Soviet Union.

"Today's meeting was rather tense," Ryzhkov told Soviet television after the session. "I understand that many regions are not satisfied with this or that issue, with the solution of this or that problem."

"It was a complicated, difficult discussion," Ryzhkov said. "It was especially difficult for me as a Prime Minister because everything was focused only on those questions that have not been solved satisfactorily."

The exchange was marked by "sharpness of some speeches," the official Tass news agency said.

The Vorkuta miners had promised to go back down into their shafts if Moscow sent a "competent commission" to hear their grievances, and it was unknown whether the meeting with Ryzhkov would be enough for them to end the strike.

Coal Minister Mikhail Shchadov asked the miners to end the strike during a Nov 6 visit to Vorkuta, but they said he had arrived "without the necessary authority" to satisfy their demands and continued the walkout.

After miners in the town of Mezhdurechensk went on strike July 10, the protest quickly enveloped the entire Kuzbass coal field in southwestern Siberia and then spread July 17 to the Ukraine's Donbas region, shutting down operations in the two most prolific coal belts of the world's No. 1 coal producer.

Miners in Vorkuta, the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan and other areas joined the strike, which lasted more than two weeks before high-ranking officials sent from Moscow gave the colliers sweeping concessions to go back to work.

US banks seen cutting prime rates

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (Reuters): While economists say the time has come for US banks to lower their interest rates, many are dragging their feet.

When the Fed-cutting Southwest Bank of St Louis and another small bank reduced their prime rates by one-half percentage point to 10 per cent on November 8, analysts predicted that the major banks would follow the regional bank's lead. But so far, only a scattering of small banks have made the move and no major bank has done so.

The prime rate is the interest rate banks charge small and medium-sized businesses for loans.

Analysts see larger banks delaying in an effort to milk more profits from their lending operations, although inevitably rates are seen coming down.

"Banks are always much more eager to raise rates than cut, but it's going to come," said David Wyss, economist at Data Resources Incorporated.

More signs of a soft economy, a growing gap between banks' cost-of-funds and loan rates, and a belief that the Federal Reserve Board will further lower interest rates should nudge banks to cut their prime rates in the next few weeks.

For big banks, profit pressures are encouraging a more conservative approach, partly because of increased bottom-line pressures following industry-wide bolstering of Third World loan provisions.

Wall Street's eyes on Eastern Europe

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP): In the changes shaking Eastern Europe, Wall Street analysts see a rare opportunity to spot turning points that might well shape economic and financial trends world-wide for years to come.

Preoccupied as they may often seem with fleeting matters — the next swing in interest rates, or a 15-cent reduction in some company's earnings estimate for the next fiscal quarter — most stock-market professionals are perpetually searching for news with a longer shelf-life.

These prizes don't turn up very often. Like the weather, financial trends are even more resistant to long-term analysis than they are to short-term forecasting.

So the developments in East Germany, in Poland and elsewhere along the front lines of the cold war have struck many Wall Streeters as the equivalent of a new gold mine, full of risks as well as rewards.

"If the Eastern bloc continues to liberalise, the world is going to look very different in a few years," said Michael Sherman at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. "As a

result, financial markets will undergo major changes — some bullish, some not so bullish."

At this early stage, analysts readily acknowledge, the puzzle they have to work with is a vast one, with many pieces that are hard to fit together.

They also caution that a seeming triumph for capitalism can be suddenly reversed, as happened this year when China suppressed its pro-democracy movement.

"At some stage Eastern Europe will pass a point of no return on the path to democracy, and it will be impossible for the Soviets to turn back the clock," observed John Connolly at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

The trick will be to get to that point quickly, before the door is shut — but not so quickly that revolution devolves into revolution and invites reaction."

That kind of qualified optimism seemed to fit the mood of investors in general during the past week. The Dow Jones

average of 30 industrial stocks rose 27.05 to 2,652.66.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index climbed 1.38 to 189.28; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market gained 0.93 to 456.72, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 1.88 at 373.55.

Big Board volume averaged 147.69 million shares a day, against 148.76 million the week before.

If capitalism is about to flower in Eastern Europe, most analysts see a vast range of possible implications for the world's financial markets.

Said Sherman: "Trade flows between the West and East could accelerate sharply, bank credits to Eastern bloc countries could explode, defence budgets would come under enormous downward pressure."

Adds Greg Smith at Prudential-Bache Securities, "the very obvious eager demand for American identifiable brand names such as Levi's, Nike, Coca-Cola

and McDonald's means that a huge market exists that might well be able to afford these products within the intermediate future, assuming that no political disruptions occur along the way."

Furthermore, noted Connolly, "a lot of machinery will be needed — both traditional and technological capital goods."

Amid all the optimism, however, analysts caution that securities markets are subject to wide and unpredictable changes of heart as they adjust to something as complicated as the situation in Europe.

"Trying to draw some economic conclusions about these developments is guesswork at the very best," said Smith. "I suggest that when the joy and excitement subside, something like a hangover could be ahead."

"There's a lot of risk associated with moving from a very centralized controlled political system to one with more individual participation."

Fuji Bank joins Western consortium in loan to China

\$96m to buy new Boeing aircraft

TOKYO, Nov 18, (AP): Fuji Bank Ltd., a major Japanese commercial bank, has joined four Western banks in making a \$96 million loan to China for use in the purchase of new Boeing aircraft, bank officials said yesterday.

It was the first loan announced by a Japanese bank to China since the June 3-4 military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing.

A Fuji Bank official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it signed an agreement with four Western banks in London in early October to make a combined \$96 million loan to China. The money will be used by the Civil Aviation Administration of China to buy an unspecified number of new B747-400 aircraft, he said.

The official said CAAC, China's flag carrier, has planned

to replace old aircraft, mostly Soviet-made ones, with new passenger planes made by Western aircraft makers.

The other banks involved in the loan are the National Westminster Bank PLC of Britain, Credit Anstalt Verein Bank of Austria, and two French banks — Credit Agricole and Paribas Bank, the official said.

He said negotiations on the Chinese loan began before the bloody suppression of pro-democracy protests last June, but its announcement was delayed until recently because of possible political implications.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a major Japanese financial newspaper, said the five banks' move was prompted by declining risks in recent months, such as a guarantee by the Bank of China, and an added 0.75 percentage point margin over the London

interbank rate.

The loan may facilitate a resumption of other loans to China by international financial organisations like the World Bank, the newspaper said.

In September, Japan lifted a warning against Japanese travel to China, but Japanese government officials have held a cautious position toward resumption of discussions on \$10 billion yen (\$5.56 billion) in official development loans Japan has pledged to provide China in 1990-95.

In another development, Japan and the United States failed to agree to extend a bilateral trade accord after two days of talks in Tokyo but will meet again in December, the Japanese economic daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported today. Officials from the two coun-

tries have been discussing since August the renewal of the fifth bilateral textile trading accord which took effect in February 1987 and expires at the end of this year.

Under the current agreement, Japanese textile exports to the United States are set at an annual growth of 0.8 per cent.

The United States wants a cut in Tokyo's export quota set on each textile item because it says Japan has been using only up to 60 per cent of the current levels. Japan wants the quota abolished, the paper said.

Textile trading is currently governed by the multi-fibre arrangement which allows industrialised countries to limit shipments of textiles from developing nations whose lower wage rates give them a competitive advantage.

Ferranti revises profits down

LONDON, Nov 18, (Reuters): British defence electronics firm Ferranti yesterday announced revised 1988-89 profits showing a sharp drop due to alleged fraudulent contracts entered into by a US subsidiary.

Ferranti International Signal's pre-tax profits for the year to last March 31 were changed from \$55.8 million (\$38.2 million) announced in July to \$13.1 (\$20.7 million).

The company made \$54.5 million (\$36.1 million) in the previous financial year.

Ferranti said the revised accounts reflected the write-off of assets relating to alleged fraudulent contracts entered into by US unit, International Signal and Control Group Plc (ISCG).

Auditors for Ferranti said there was insufficient information to determine in detail how the alleged fraud was implemented and whether any part of the amount written off represented costs properly incurred from valid contracts.

One of the auditors, Peat Marwick McLintock, said it was dropping the Ferranti account because the original profit statement had to be withdrawn.

Britain's serious fraud office is investigating allegations of fraud related to ISCG which Ferranti acquired in 1987.

Ferranti said in its announcement about the revision that the affair had cut its capital and reserves at the end of March by about £176.4 million (\$279 million), a little higher than thought.

After investigations started, Ferranti issued a provisional statement of pre-tax profit at £27.5 million (\$43.4 million) at the end of September, which was subsequently revised down yesterday.

Ferranti said on Thursday it had signed an agreement with 30 banks to borrow an unspecified sum to cover working capital for the next few months.

Rich nations say

World needs to act faster

GENEVA, Nov 18, (Reuters): Industrialised nations say the world needs to act faster to save the protective ozone layer, delegates at a UN meeting here said yesterday.

But environmentalists charge that these countries are still dragging their feet in the face of impending disaster.

"No country or industry can yet congratulate itself for having done what is necessary to protect the ozone layer," said David Dwyer, attorney with the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), a US group which proposed the initial measures to help save the earth's ozone.

"The safety of our children and grandchildren, and of the world they will inhabit, is still at stake."

Ozone protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays. Environmentalists say that a thinner or patchy ozone layer will produce ill effects — from increased skin cancer and eye cataracts to lower crop yields and even possibly the collapse of the marine food chain.

A 1987 Montreal protocol, which came into effect this year, is generally recognised as inadequate. It provides for a 50 per cent cut in the most damaging chemicals — chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and certain halons — by 1996.

Delegates said the meeting, sponsored by the UN Environment Programme, made some progress in defining amendments to the protocol for adoption in June next year.

Most industrialised governments were now in favour of eliminating the solvents methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride.

Environmental group Greenpeace International said all these chemicals should be banned in 1990 rather than a decade later.

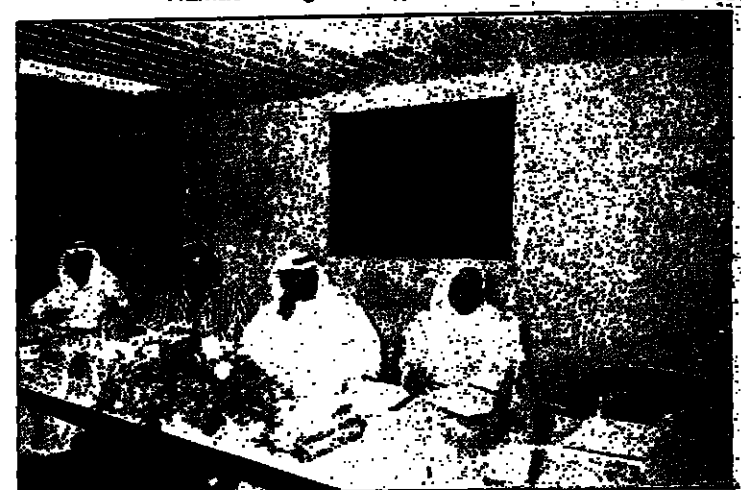
"Governments are perilously close to guaranteeing the existence of an ozone hole forever," said Greenpeace activist Karen Coulter.

Greenpeace and the NRDC also called for an early date for the elimination of CFC substitutes (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) which although much less dangerous than CFCs still damage the ozone layer.

A representative of about 400 US companies that produce and use CFCs, the Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy, said the chemical industry would spend \$3 to \$5 billion over the next 10 years on finding alternatives.



Hamad Al Sager addresses the meeting



Some of those who attended the meeting

Survey on local banking sector

THE personnel division of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait which has recently started a comprehensive salary and compensation survey on the local banking sector, has distributed questionnaires among ten local financial institutions in order to gather relevant information.

Earlier on October 9, 1989, Hamad Al Sager, assistant general manager, personnel, training & security division of the bank opened a joint meeting of top executives of the local banks' personnel departments at the Commercial Bank's Training Centre situated at 6th Ring Road to discuss the feasibility of the survey.

At the meeting, Mohammed Al Huwailan, manager of the personnel department of Commercial Bank elaborated on the scope and aims of the survey.

The participants responded positively to the project. Ibrahim Kasab, executive manager, human resources, National Bank of Kuwait expressed his appreciation for the Commercial Bank's efforts in conducting the survey which match international standards. He also emphasised the significance of exchanging appropriate information among the banks which would enhance co-operation and co-ordination among them and safeguard the best interests of the banking sector.

William Van Ray from the Al Ahli Bank, Saadi Al Othman, assistant general manager of Kuwait Finance House and Srouf Al Samirah, senior manager, human resources of the Gulf Bank appreciated the discussions which took place in the meeting. They held that the result of the survey would be of vital importance as it would set appropriate plans to attract skilled and qualified manpower to the local banking sector.

Commercial Bank is conducting such a survey for the second time. The first was held in 1985.

It would take approximately two to three months for the completion of the present survey.

Emirates honoured again

EMIRATES, the international airline of the UAE, has won yet another major international honour. In a poll that included more than 100 airlines, Emirates has been voted fifth in the world for its long-haul business class service by readers of Business Traveller, the influential UK-based consumer travel magazine.

Business Traveller said: "A newcomer in the top ten, jetting in at number five, is Emirates, indicating that it is on its way to realising its ambition to be the Singapore Airlines of the Gulf."

Commenting on Emirates added-value business class package, the magazine went on: "Emirates' entry in fifth place demonstrates how quickly an airline can win friends if it listens to its customers and provides the services they want."

Placed first in the category was Virgin Atlantic.

This latest tribute to the Dubai-based carrier follows soon after readers of the Middle East Economic Digest voted Emirates the Best Arab Airline and another poll by Britain's Executive Travel magazine chose Emirates as Best Carrier to the Middle East for the second year in succession.

Among a host of earlier awards, Emirates has been named best airline by one of Europe's leading travel magazines, check-in, in a category which covered the Middle East, Pacific, Africa and South America.

Maurice Flanagan, Emirates managing director, commented: "We are delighted that our business class service has earned us a place among the world's top five airlines. Emirates has a determined policy to provide passengers with the best possible product and we are always very pleased when this policy is recognised."

The airline's deputy managing director, Sultan Dhiyab, praised the efforts of the in-flight services department and said Emirates would retain the flexibility to give passengers what they require.

Emirates, which celebrated its fourth anniversary last month with the announcement that it will increase its fleet to 14 aircraft over the next few years, intends to begin services to the Far East next year and to expand its European routes.

E. German economy needs 10 years to catch up

BONN, Nov 18, (UPI): The East German economy will take ten years to reach Western standards and can only be reformed slowly with a fully convertible currency, a Western expert said today.

"This can only happen very slowly," said Manfred Melzer, East Germany specialist for the German Institute for Economic Research, an independent research foundation. He said it might take as long as ten years.

"Above all one needs a convertible currency," Melzer said in a radio interview.

Drastic, immediate currency reform was to be avoided, Melzer said. More important was a restructuring of prices in order to eliminate distortions in the heavily subsidized East German pricing system.

Melzer said subsidies had to be abolished,

especially on consumer products and that East German industry had to open itself to investment from Western corporations on a grand scale. He added that greater co-operation with the European Economic Community was essential.

Melzer said the way out of the economic misery suffered by East Germans was to end all non-profit orientated production. He advocated the creation of a new banking system "which would stimulate efficient production through a positive credit policy."

Count Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the free democrats in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Center-Right coalition, said in a newspaper article that distortions created by subsidies fuelled social and economic pressures and had to be abolished.

Near-record US exports and reduced foreign imports push trade deficit down

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (UPI): There was good news on the trade front this week as the US Commerce Department said near-record American exports and reduced foreign imports pushed down the trade deficit by \$2.2 billion to \$7.94 billion in September, the lowest in nearly five years.

The August deficit was revised to \$10.1 billion from a projected \$10.77 billion. But experts said long-term improvement is only moderate. A sharp drop in capital goods imports suggested businesses were cutting back on equipment purchases in anticipation of a slowdown.

In a related development, Japan's enormous trade surplus declined by 39 per cent in October as exports fell for the first time in four years. The trade surplus retreated to 4.66 billion last month compared with \$7.68 billion in October 1988. The dollar-denominated value of Japanese exports fell by only

1.9 per cent, but imports were up 16 per cent.

Later in the week commerce said housing starts rose a sharp 12 per cent in October from September's seven-year low as new construction picked up in all regions of the country. Starts hit a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.42 million against 1.27 million in September.

The substantial surge was good news for the economy since housing starts are a key barometer of future economic growth.

But industrial and retail sectors weakened in October, other data released during the week showed. Industrial output fell 0.7 per cent and US industries were operating at just 82.8 per cent of capacity. Retail sales fell by 1 per cent in October, the sharpest dropoff in 2-1/2 years.

The New York Stock Exchange week ended on a positive note with gains

from the housing starts news improved computer industry earnings and a big general electric stock buyback.

A long-running strike by telephone workers in New York and New England neared an end as Nynex reached a tentative settlement with two unions. The company agreed to continue paying full health insurance premiums for its 60,000 union employees and workers accepted a lower wage package.

European groups were picking up more American companies.

Swedish-Swiss engineering giant Asea Brown Boveri got its foot further in the door of the US market with the agreed acquisition of combustion engineering for \$40 a share, a total of \$1.6 billion.

British food and drink conglomerate Allied-Lyons Plc agreed to buy Dunkin' donuts for \$325 million two months after the Randolph, Massachusetts,

fast-food chain rejected a hostile bid from a Canadian group. Other Allied-Lyons properties include Baskin-Robbins ice cream and Tetley Inc.

In an all-American confrontation, forest-products company Great North-Nekoosa rejected a \$3.19 takeover offer from Georgia-Pacific and filed suit in a federal court in Connecticut to halt the bid. The antitrust suit alleges a Georgia-Pacific takeover would limit competition.

Another entertainment mega-takeover was afoot: Telecommunications Inc., a cable colossus, and subsidiary United Artists Communications Inc. were said to be eyeing Motion Picture Studio MGM/UA Communications Co. Turner Broadcasting System Inc. could be in with the bidders, looking for production-to-market vertical integration.

Two major US corporations admit-

ted malfeasance. Boeing pleaded guilty in a federal court to having illicitly obtained Pentagon documents in the mid-1980s and agreed to pay a \$5 million fine. But only one Boeing executive will face criminal charges in the case.

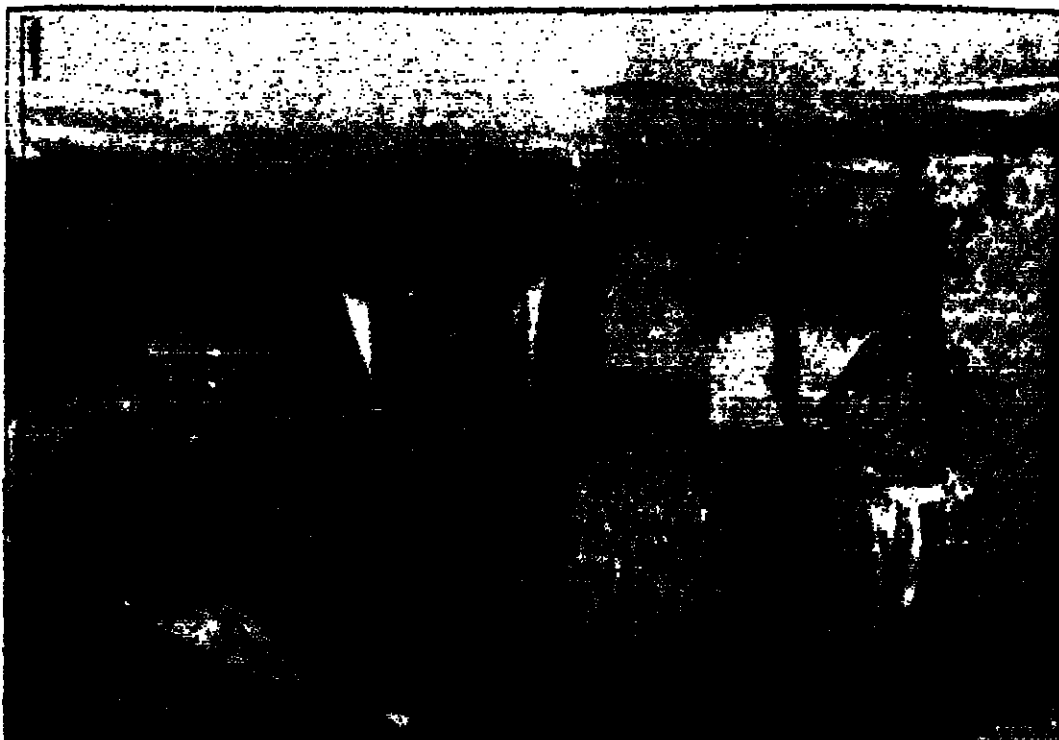
Computer giant IBM admitted it had breached "buy-America" laws in dealings with the federal government and sold used equipment to US agencies when new computers were called for. IBM said the incidents were minor, but a sweeping review of its federal contracts has been launched.

Ford Motor Co. chairman Donald Petersen surprised corporate America with the announcement that he would retire sooner than had been expected, to be replaced in the top slot by vice chairman Harold Poling. Occidental Petroleum chairman Armand Hammer got back to work after a heart operation.

The dollar fluttered in the stiff breeze of democracy blowing from Eastern Europe. It gained strength against the Deutsche mark on fears the West German economy could be distorted by the refugee flux from East Germany, then eased as East bloc reforms proceeded in an orderly way.

General Electric joined the parade of Western capitalists heading East as it bought a \$150 million majority stake in Tungsram, a Hungarian light bulb manufacturer. But economic and political experts say companies will have to be in for the long haul to assure East European profits.

As the East European democracy and free market movement broadened, the US government came under pressure from leading ally West Germany to relax rules for the transfer of telecommunications and other high-technology products to the once-firmly socialist zone.



Dr. Maung Mohammad Tamano, Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, with the successful participants and Kapilku officials.



Kapilku new bookkeepers with Ambassador Tamano and lecturers.

Students in book-keeping & basic accounting graduate

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) held their last session of their book-keeping and basic accounting courses, another successful project last Friday at Far East Restaurant.

Defina Yambot discussed the complete accounting cycle in manufacturing business and explained trial balance, balance sheets and income statements.

Joe Sta Maria showed the proper presentation of a project cost budget, project cash forecast on monthly basis and scheme of performance guarantee of a construction company.

Kapilku President, Manny Inserto, then thoroughly explained the classification types of assets, liabilities and stockholders' equities of a commercial bank in the Philippines. He further discussed the bank reconciliation of a company and gave an interesting test which was answered freely by the participants.

Finance attaché, Jun Arenas, enlightened participants with the proper presentation of individual income tax (non-resident) and the scheme of importing cars by Filipino contract

workers in the Middle East.

Guest of Honour

Dr. Maung Mohammad Tamano, the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait was the guest of honour during the graduation, in spite of his hectic schedule. Ambassador Tamano awarded the Certificate of Attendance to the members of the association who completed the courses.

Vice-president for Social and Cultural Affairs, Sarah Macarimbang was the chairperson while Jun de Dios, finance and administration manager of EEI was the vice chairman and one of the lecturers.

Adnan Khalil, the general manager of Far East Restaurant was the sponsor of the book-keeping and basic accounting courses and organised by Kapilku.

The new bookkeepers of the association were entertained by well-known Filipino singers like Milan Mendez, the Rico J. of Kuwait and the Kapilku Night Grand Final champion of the Sing-Alike contest, Rufely Gaudin, the Whitney Houston of Kuwait who sang One Moment in Time to the delight of the members.

The next self-improvement course or the free classes of Kapilku is the computer course which will cover Lotus 123, Symphony, DOS and Data Base III Plus.

The course will start on December 1 at 1:00 pm and will be for five Fridays.

For particulars and registration please contact VP Sarah Macarimbang on 4843447 or the chairman of the course auditor Boda Borja.

Nostalgia Filipina

Kapilku will also hold the Philippine Community Day on Friday, November 24 at SAS Tent at 6:00 pm in co-operation with the Philippine Embassy. This big event will coincide with the selection of Hiyas ng Pilipinas Kuwait '89, a personality and talent contest. The theme of this year's celebration is "Nostalgia Filipina."

The association's main objective of this year's project is to bring all Filipinos closer together and to ease their loneliness and homesickness.

Kapilku president, Manny Inserto, is optimistic that this year's celebration will strengthen

ties among Filipinos in Kuwait in all walks of life. The proceeds of this project will be utilised to the less fortunate members of the association.

All the guests will be treated to an extravaganza of music in love song, modern to rock 'n' roll and cultural shows all to be performed by well-known Filipino singers and artists respectively.

A coloured TV and other valuable prizes will be at stake to all the guests in raffle contest during the celebration.

Versatile Sarah Macarimbang, VP for Social and Cultural Affairs, is the chairperson of this big and colourful project while flamboyant Jun Mercado is the vice chairman.

Energetic Thelma A. Sanial, finance officer of the Philippine Embassy, is the production consultant and debonair Manny Tupas is the musical director.

Tickets are available at general admission, premiere and deluxe. For particulars, please contact the chairperson on telephone number 4843447 or the vice-chairman on telephone number 4899418.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
- 9.50 Around the World: cartoon serial
- 10.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 10.15 Fi Muntassaf Al Lail: local serial (Part 8)
- 11.15 Sabah Al Khair news and variety
- 11.30 That's Incredible: variety programme
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Cutdown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite
- 4.45 Alice in Wonderland: cartoon serial (Part 23)
- 5.15 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Air-lines and Official Advertisements
- 6.15 Al Islam Hadhara: religious serial (Part 12)
- 7.15 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabat: local programme
- 8.00 Scientific discussions: cultural programme presented by Yousif Yaqoob Al Sultan
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Tareq Min Al Sama: Arabic serial (Part 13)
- 10.30 Race Al Seet: Bedouin serial (Part 7), starring Abeer Issa, Roubi Al Safadi and Amal Al Dabbas
- 11.45 News summary
- 11.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran and Cutdown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Three Stooges: a cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Munsters Today: "Don't Cry Wolf." A man called "Wolfman" claims that he is Herman's cousin.
- 7.00 Weird and Wonderful: A look at the strangest things that could be unique to Australia....
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Bergerac: "Last Chance for a Loser." Bergerac suspects Eddie St. Pierre an ex-golf "Pro," who is facing financial difficulties, in the theft, but cannot prove how he manages to dispose of the money.
- 9.30 Sea Power: A look at the most advanced technologies incorporated in modern aircraft carriers...
- 10.00 The Robert Guillaume show: "First Date." Dr. Edward invites his secretary to a dinner party where the latter forgets to book a place for them!
- 10.30 Bestseller: The Bourne Identity. Part 2. A well-trained detective called Jayson keeps close to Carlos and his gang in an attempt to arrest the terrorists...
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

ARTS

Islamic Art

A SIX week — 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Arafat, Al Salam Hotel, on Sunday and Tuesday evenings from 10:00 — 12:00 noon, October 29 through December 5, 1989.

An eight week — eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Arafat, Al Salam Hotel, on Monday afternoons from 4:00 — 6:00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.

To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Arafat during museum hours 8:30 am — 12:30 pm.

Watercolour Painting

LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in Drawing & Painting for adults. For details tel: 5618847.

SOCIAL

Plantist wanted

KUWAIT Little Theatre — Ahmadji urgently require a plantist to help with their pantomime rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested, please call S. Prescott on 3725960 after 3 pm.

Yuletide Fayre

Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St. Paul's Church, Ahmadji from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.

Carnival Night

The long waited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.

Jazz Night

NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.

Kuwait Games

DEC 15: Annual children's Xmas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in atten-

dance. To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

Get together

"DEC 22" Round the table come together again to a family get-together at Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 10 am.

December Delights

DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS Tent Hotel from 0930 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5653056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

Fancy Dress Competition

DEC 8: Joint annual family get-together has been shifted to Kuwait Regency Palace for the convenience of all members on 8th Dec. from 10:00 am onwards. Live music from the Top Ranks, fancy dress competition, free gifts from Santa and games for children. Members are requested to collect their passes from the managing committee or call Joe 3981750/Sam 3921712.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

Musical Show

DEC 1: Musical Entertainment City in "Starlight Theatre" with Live Rock 'n' Roll, Pop and Reggae music from the most popular and dynamic beat groups of Kuwait. "Top Ranks" and "Next of Kings".

The Highlights: Fancy dress competition, live stage performance of five, break dance and solo dancing by Joe Miquita, Tony & their dancing group. Including many surprises.

For complete details Twin-ble on: 4879455 ext. 298 (4 pm

Star Nite

DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yulide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8 pm and goes on from 9 pm with a sumptuous buffet mid-night. A galore of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under 555 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel: 5331940, 2413706 (res).

British Council

85th birthday tribute to Graham Greene — The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of poster about his life and works during the whole month of November. On Tuesday, 14 Nov., Saturday, 25 Nov and Sunday, 26th Nov., film adaptations of "Brighton Rock" and "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free but please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Visit the Education Information Office on: Monday, 13 Nov or Tuesday, 14 Nov. If you are interested in courses in Business, Management or Finance.

Exhibition

AN exhibition of superb replica of trees and plants which uniquely couple lifelike fabric foliage with natural trunks and branches. Select for more than 20 different varieties of plants and trees for the size space. On display at the lower lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at: 2407029.

Hobby centre

New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults. For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Thursday Night Fever

THE Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait will hold another interaction evening for the beneficiaries of its welfare projects which it conducts in coordination with the Welfare officer of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration. The evening promises rhythmically pulsating dance music for all dance floor aficionados. The project is entitled "Thursday Night Fever" and is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 30th of November 1989 at 5.30 pm at the Maridien Hotel's Al-Jahra Ballroom.

Meanwhile FLASSIK invites everyone to join their "LOVE DRIVE." Used clothing, blankets, toiletries and canned goods are welcome. Please contact any FLASSIK officers if you have any donations. And for those looking forward to the yule season we invite you to the "CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT" under the talented conductress Gilda Navarro and the Filipino choir. Watch out for more details.

Musical Nights with Adnan Butt

A variety of popular Indian and Pakistani songs, ghazals and geets to be presented in exclusive musical gatherings on

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Musical Nights with Adnan Butt

A variety of popular Indian and Pakistani songs, ghazals and geets to be presented in exclusive musical gatherings on

four consecutive Thursdays starting from November 23, 1989 at various locations in Kuwait. For details contact 3919720, 3610088 and 4743955.

SPORTS

Swimming/life saving

SWIMMING/life saving courses with Royal Life Saving society coach and grade 1 examiner will be commencing at Messilah Beach Hotel Club.

Fiesta Extravaganza

The Filipino Cultural Club, in its continuous effort to pursue its commitment to promote goodwill, offer wholesome entertainment, and carry out the club's objectives, will be staging Fiesta Extravaganza '89 (An FCC Christmas Special) on 8th December 1989, a Friday, at the plush Hotel Maridien from 5 pm. This 'year-end affair' will be presented by the FCC as a special way of thanking the club's friends, supporters and well-wishers for their continuous support and patronage. As the year 1989 comes to a close, FCC looks forward to being with you for an enjoyable pre-Christmas get-together. Guests can look forward to another very entertaining evening — FCC style, with a sumptuous dinner and a special show for which the club has been widely reputed for. In addition, there will be a raffle draw featuring valuable prizes for many, as well as dancing for everyone's enjoyment.

Proceeds of the show will be used for the club's welfare projects and surely enough, your kind patronage will go a long way in helping the FCC with their commitment to the less privileged Filipinos in Kuwait.

A limited number of tickets are now available for KD5 at the following outlets: Philippine Gift Shop at the Souk Al Kabir and Mabuhay Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel.

For more details, please contact Florence Delos Santos; Tel. 2439451 or 2436121; Tolits Matig-a Tel. 2417766; Jun Sta. Maria and other members of the club.

Open Badminton Tournament

IT is with great pleasure that we once again give this open invitation to all badminton players in Kuwait to take part in the annual Open Badminton Tournament.

The tournament will be held between Saturday, November 25th and Thursday November 30th, 1989 at the KOC Sports Centre Abu Dhabi.

Timings for each day's play will be as follows:

Saturday 25th, November through Wednesday 29th November (1900 hrs to 2200 hrs.)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli & Nagra
Al-Nasr Pharmacy
Hawalli, Mariani, Yousif Bldg.

Salmiya & Rumaykha
Socma Pharmacy
Baghdad St.

Fahheel & Ahmed
Bastur Pharmacy
Fahheel, Dabbous St.

Juleeb Al Shiyokh
Wahran Pharmacy
Juleeb Al Shiyokh, Souk St.

Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Shock Troop

Al Salmiya
Moon Trap

Al Hama
Arabic film

Drive-In
Arabic film

Al Firdos
Bruce Lee in New Guinea

Fahheel Open-air
Ram Belram

Al Fahheel
The Dead Pool

Al Jahra
Arabic film

Granada
Aitbar

Salamhahat
Pacific Connection

Al-Jahra
A War Witness

Ahmed Drive-In
Arabic film

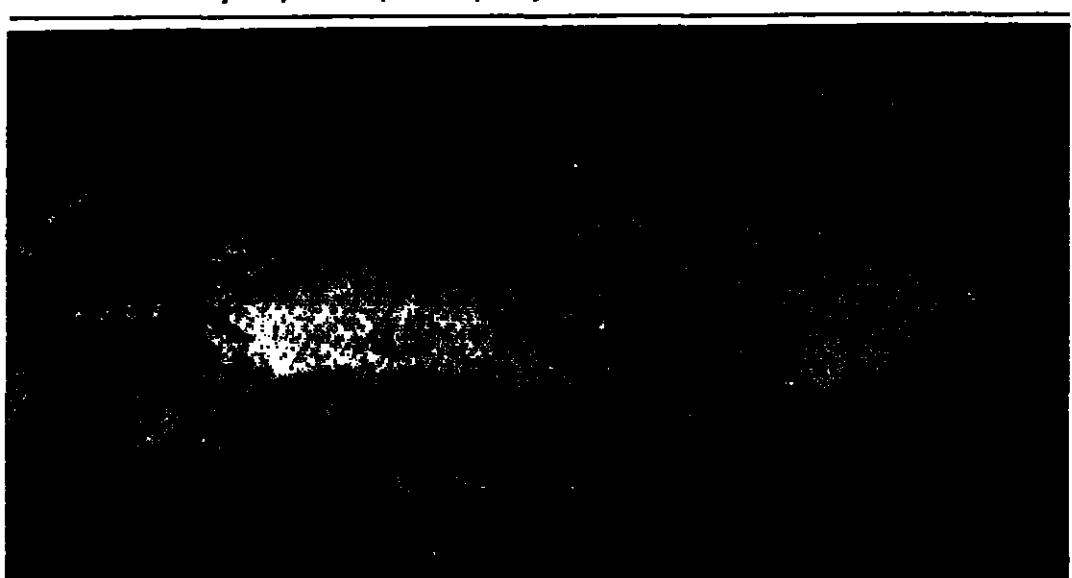
PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 4.52 am |
| Zuhr | 11.33 |
| Asr | 2.31 pm |
| Maghreb | 4.51 |
| Isha | 6.12 |



Indian ambassador's wife distributes prizes

Mrs. A.K. Budhiraja, wife of Indian Ambassador distributing the prizes to the winners of U.M.O.'s Nehru Birth Centenary competitions. (From left): Kunjahmad, Ahy Varicad (general secretary).



Symbols from the Past

Dr. Jamal Lamey, currently an assistant professor at the University of Helwan, Egypt, is holding an exhibition entitled "Symbols from the Past" at the Al Iwan Gallery in Zahra Complex. Dr. Jamal was born on Jan 14, He studied fine art and art appreciation at Hilwan University and the University of New York. He also obtained a doctorate degree in philosophy of fine arts in 1982; since, Dr. Jamal has published a number of scientific research material related of art and art appreciation.

Bonuses and gifts expected early December

A special Christmas for government officials

Man shoots wife, cop stabs man: A Metro aide was shot dead by a policeman after he hacked and stabbed his wife with a bolo and an axe along Commonwealth Ave. in Quezon City.

Romulo Rodrigo, 37, of 18 Area 3, Luzon Ave., Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City died on the spot from bullet wounds in the body. His wife Julita, 38, also a Metro aide, is being treated for hack wounds in the neck and head and a stab wound in the left thigh. Doctors at the East Avenue Medical Centre gave Julita a slim chance to live.

Witnesses told Pfc. Dante Laguilles that Julita was planting flowers near the Philcoa Building with other Metro Aides when Rodrigo arrived drunk at 7:05 am and without a word, began beating her up with a belt buckle.

Julita's co-workers tried to help her. But Rodrigo threatened to harm them, grabbed the bolo Julita was using and hacked his wife with it.

When Julita fell bloodied on the pavement, Rodrigo positioned himself for a thrust to her neck. The other Metro aides jumped and pushed him away.

Some of Julita's co-workers picked her up and flagged down a jeepney to bring her to the hospital. But they had only gotten away by several metres when Rodrigo freed himself from the other Metro Aides, picked up an axe and plunged it into Julita's left thigh.

Pat. Rene Tibillar then saw what was happening from the jeepney he was riding and got off to arrest Rodrigo and shot him when he resisted arrest.

Julita's sister, Marilou, said Rodrigo had suspected that she had been having an affair with a policeman.

Engineer nabbed with fake papers: An engineer was arrested by the Bureau of Customs and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) men for tampering with customs documents for the release of a boatload of P26 million worth of bunker fuel.

Engineer Eduardo Salomilla of Star Marine Enterprises was brought to the NBI headquarters after he was arrested at the office of Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison yesterday.

Salomilla was passing off fake documents to Commissioner Mison for the release of the vessel containing some 20,000 barrels of bunker fuel when he was arrested.

It was allegedly Salomilla's second attempt to get the vessel released. The vessel was confiscated a year ago.

Mison said that a representative of Salomilla on Sept 1 showed them a customs memorandum order but customs lawyer Aron Redubla noticed that the documents were fake.

When Salomilla showed up at Mison's office to get the endorsement letter of asst executive secretary Mariano Sarmiento III, he was arrested by customs and NBI men and brought to the NBI headquarters for questioning.

Mother Lily fined: Lily Monteverde, producer of "Mighty Mouse and the Roborats" faces administrative charges for showing the movie's trailer on television and movie houses even if disapproved by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, MTRCB chairman Manuel Morato said.

Morato fined Monteverde for the violation and for not correcting the movie's title "Roborats" spelled with a hyphen.

Morato said that the case of the Joey de Leon starrer is to be decided by the legal division of the MTRCB.

The censor's chief said the board will impose stricter penalties and sanctions against Monteverde, including a one month suspension, if her films continue to defy MTRCB regulations.

He said that the board has reviewed and sanitized the vulgar words in the movie.

8 garments firm officials charged: Eight officials of a garment company were charged with defrauding the government of some P 24.5 million in uncollected duties and taxes.

Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez identified seven of the FRA garments Philippines officials as Alfonso Topacio, Guillermo Salustiano Jr., Rodrigo Plantilla, Achilles del Rosario, Roberto del Rosario, Christine Castillo and Erlinda Torres.

FRA Garments faked export bills of lading 1988 and issued the fake documents to liquidate the entries covering its shipment of raw materials and cancel the bonds put up for Customs duties and taxes.

The government lost some P 24.5 million in duties and taxes, Ordoñez said.

Six directors of felicidad Manufacturing corp. (FMC) were similarly charged for tax evasion and falsification of commercial documents before the Manila Regional Trial court.

FMC allegedly defrauded the government of some P21.5 million in taxes and duties.

2 Shot in Bulacan: A businessman and a tricycle driver were shot and wounded by four unidentified men in Barangay Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan.

Businessman Reynaldo dela Cruz, 39, suffered two gunshot wounds and the driver known only as Berting was hit on the right shoulder and left leg.

Both were rushed to a hospital in Manila.

Investigators said Dela Cruz was riding Berting's tricycle from Barangay Dampalit, Malabon, when the gunmen fired at them when they reached Barangay Panghulo.

Boss slain for refusing to raise pay: A businessman was stabbed to death for refusing to raise the salary of his driver in Antipolo, Rizal.

Eliño Condizion, 40 of Antonio Ave. in Rosario, Pasig died instantly from three stab wounds in the chest.

His driver, identified only as a certain Barok fled after the incident.

Security guard Cesar Pajarillo told police investigators that he overheard Condizion and Barok arguing about the salary the driver had been asking at the businessman's office at about 7 pm.

Minutes later, Pajarillo said he saw Barok rush outside the office with a bladed weapon.

Walk out explained: Makati opposition councilors who walked out of the council session late Tuesday said their action was prompted by Mayor Jejomar Binay's order to exclude from the floor minority bloc leader Roberto Brilante.

Councilors Elena Maccay, Elias Tolentino and Jonny Wilson however, said they returned to the session hall minutes later and explained they walked out to sympathize with Brilante who left the hall after Binay told him he was out of order.

Before the walkout, a heated session ensued over refusal of the opposition block to recognize the appointment of Armando San Miguel by Metro Manila Gov. Efraim Cruz to fill the seat vacated by newly-installed vice-mayor Augusto Pangzan in the council.

Marikina robbers stab maid: A housemaid was stabbed and wounded by one of two robbery suspects who broke into the house of her employer in Marikina.

Rosie Apostol, 22, native of Catanduan, Quezon, stay-in maid of businessman Pacita Acuna, 40 of Orchids St Loyola Subd. in Barangay Barangka, Marikina, was rushed to the E. Rodriguez Hospital with several stab wounds in the neck and chest.

Capt. Ric Mendez said the incident happened at about 3 pm while Apostol was alone in the house.

Acuna identified to police investigators Apostol's attacker as one Roland of San Juan, Metro Manila. Roland and his unidentified companion entered the house by destroying the main door lock.

Roland is allegedly a friend of Apostol's brother, police said.

When Apostol saw the two men entered the house, she shouted for help. Roland panicked and stabbed her.

Thinking that he had killed Apostol, Roland and the other man rushed out of the house, police said.

Fireman pusher: A fireman was arrested by a Western Police District (WPD) anti-narcotics team for selling sample cough syrups and over-the-counter drugs to his neighbors in Tondo.

Roberto Presentation, 34, detailed at the San Nicolas Fire Brigade was arrested in his house at Navarro St. Tondo, Manila by a team of policemen led by WPD anti-narcotics chief Capt. Reynaldo Jaylo.

Police also recovered several cough syrups marked "samples" from Presentation who failed to present any papers justifying the mini-drug store in his house.

Police said Presentation had been under surveillance for a week now due to numerous complaints that he was selling cough syrups to suspected addicts in the neighborhood.

ALL government officials and employees will receive a Christmas bonus equivalent to their one-month salary and a cash gift of P1,000 in the first week of December, Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague said.

Carague said the bonus and the cash gift will cost the government some P4 billion which will be taken from the Government Employees' Amelioration Fund in the 1989 national budget.

All national government officials and

employees, including temporary, contractual and casual employees, who have rendered at least four months of service from Jan 1 to Oct 31 this year, are entitled to the bonus, Carague said.

Under the law, all employees and officials of the local government shall receive similar benefits, but funds shall be charged to the local government.

Carague said the computation of the bonus will be based on the actual basic monthly standardized salary, daily wage,

or contractual rate, as the case may be, of employees as of Oct 31. Computation excludes all allowances, hazard pay and other forms of compensation usually paid outside of the basic salary.

These benefits will not be subject to GSIS premium, Medicare, withholding tax and other similar deductions. However, it will be reported as taxable income, Carague said.

At the same time, Carague called on those with complaints about the salary

standardization to submit their protests to the DBM's Appeals Board.

Carague is the chairman of the appeals board, with the budget undersecretaries and a representative from the Civil Service Commission as members.

"Since the Salary Standardization Law, as the name implies, was really intended to eliminate disparities in pay for employees with similar duties, res-

ponsibilities and qualifications requirements, and not to grant a general salary increase, those who are already receiving higher rates than their counterparts are bound to be disappointed," Carague said.

"Although many have indeed received a pay raise, these are merely corrective adjustments to make their salaries consistent with the minimum standardization pay rates for their positions," he added.

Protests against US bases boost

ABOUT 1,000 protesters burned effigies of President Aquino and Uncle Sam and carried banners demanding "Yankee go home" to demand the closure of six military bases here.

The protest in front of the US embassy came hours before Ms Aquino was to meet US President George Bush in Washington. The talks were expected to include the future of the bases.

US and Filipino negotiators are expected to begin talks in Manila next month on extending the lease on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base, and four smaller US installations.

Ms Aquino has refused to say whether or not she wants a new agreement.

During the rally, Sen Wigberto Tanada, a member of the pro-Aquino coalition, said that even if Ms Aquino supported a new agreement, the senate would disapprove it.

The RP-US Military bases agreement expires in September 1991, and any extension of the lease, must be covered by a new treaty ratified by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate.

Tanada told the crowd that 10 senators were committed to dismantling the bases in 1991 and he expected five more to support closure.

At the end of the rally, protesters planted a symbolic "notice of termination" of the bases pact.

Organisers handed out statements denouncing the bases as an affront to national sovereignty.

"When Cory and Bush hold hands, that will be the climax of Cory's betrayal of the Filipino people," said one leaflet by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, and the league of Filipino students.

In a related development, more than 150,000 workers affiliated with militant labour groups are set to hold a two-hour work stoppage today to protest talks on PR-US trade relations between President Aquino and

US President George Bush. Roberto Ortaliza, KMU secretary general, said hundreds of plantations, factories and business firms in Luzon will be affected by the work stoppage.

Ortaliza said more than 30 unions affiliated with the KMU and the Labour Advisory Council will join cause-oriented groups opposing the continued stay of the US bases in separate protest actions in Metro Manila and other major cities in

Luzon.

The protesters in Metro Manila will converge near the Ninoy Aquino statue in Makati.

Sen Joseph Estrada and former Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez will lead speakers in denouncing the evils of the US bases.

Ortaliza said Ms Aquino's visit to the United States "signal the formalization of a new pact" extending the lease on US military facilities beyond 1991.



Tanada leads anti-bases rally in front of the US embassy

Probe set on pay bias

THE Senate committee on civil service and government reorganization is set to investigate the widespread complaints among state workers regarding the implementation of the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989.

Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile said he is filing a resolution seeking to determine the extent of the alleged "distortions" in the implementation of Republic Act 6758, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law.

Enrile said he is supporting the position taken by government employees, particularly the public school teachers, that the circulars issued by the budget department had arbitrarily reduced the aggregate compensation that they were already receiving since June 30 this year.

This Enrile said, was contrary to the intent of the law which mandated that no government employee should receive less than what he had already been earning before the passage of the Act. The law was conceived to treat every government employee fairly and justly, Enrile said.

"I therefore fully understand the anguish and resentment among all our workers in the entire government bureaucracy, whose only demand is for equal pay for equal work," Enrile said.

"Such anguish is compounded by the fact that even the total aggregate compensation they deserve to receive under the salary standardization system would not be enough to cushion the impact of the sky-rocketing prices of prime commodities," he said.

Enrile said the budget circulars have actually reduced the existing inadequate pay scales of the lowly workers to such unjust and inequitable levels that further aggravate their financial situation.

In effect, the senator said, the budget department subverted the law, instead of implementing its noble objective of alleviating the plight of workers.

He said the Senate inquiry aims to determine who were responsible for the so-called distortions in the implementation of the law as well as the reasons for changing the intent of the law.

QC no-nonsense campaign launched

MORE than 500 jaywalkers, smokers and illegal sidewalk vendors were rounded up in Quezon City as Mayor Brigido Simon Jr launched a no-nonsense city-wide campaign to restore order and discipline in the metropolis.

The crackdown was mounted by the police and barangay officials and tanods in response to the mayor's directive to hit hard on all forms of violations of city ordinances that have caused an almost total breakdown in the moral values and civic responsibilities of the residents.

Simon explained that non-governmental agencies have been tapped to help. He said all have pledged to assist in the informational phase such as streamers and leaflets to boost the campaign.

"We shall hit hard on all violators regardless of the consequences. The important thing is that we can re-inculcate in our people the traditional Filipino values and respect for law and order," Simon said in a press release.

Simon also said the drive will be anchored on the basis of "hiya and takot" (fear and shame).

"We shall make violators realize that in the city, we mean business so that they will begin to fear our resolve and be ashamed of what they have done," he said.

The mayor said three detention cells will be installed where arrested violators will be detained in full view of the public. Simon also ordered the giving of P50 cash reward as an incentive to policemen and barangay officials and tanods for every apprehension of violators of city ordinances.

He gave the initial reward of P25,000 to traffic policemen under Maj Celestino Leano who meted the first batch of 500 jaywalkers.

Others arrested included 44 violators of anti-smoking ban and illegal vendors. Majority of them were arrested in the Cubao area.

Covered by the "Balik disciplina" campaign aside from jaywalking, smoking, and illegal vending are littering, loading and unloading on prohibited zones, illegal parking, illegal squatting, lewd shows, sale of pornographic comics, magazines and tabloids, liquor drinking in public places, urinating in public, spitting in public, smoke-belching and illegal structures.

Meanwhile, in Bulacan, a six-year-old niece of Land Bank of the Philippines president Deogracias Vistan was killed by five armed robbers, who held up a farm equipment store in Barangay Sta Cruz and robbed it of P500,000 in cash and checks.

Maj. Primo Capulog, commanding officer of 171st PC company, identified the young girl as Sheila Vistan, daughter of Pedro Vistan, 34, owner of the store and a cousin of Land Bank chief Deogracias Vistan.

Initial investigation showed that Vistan and his wife, Erminda, were about to close shop because of a brownout in the area when the suspects armed with an M-16 armalite rifle and handgun barged into their store.

SC employees walk out

EMPLOYEES of the Supreme Court walked out of their jobs to protest alleged inequities in the new salary standardization law.

The mass action led by the Supreme Court Employees Association (SCEA), started at 8 am and disrupted court operations the whole day.

Joseph Ang, SCEA president, told newsmen that his members have asked the Supreme Court justices to defer the implementation of the standardization law until a more equitable scheme can be worked out.

He added that several employees also asked for a 30 per cent across-the-board salary increase due to the high cost of living. Court officials said this demand is "unrealistic."

Employees complained that some of them suffered salary decreases while others received a substantial increase in their pay while others did not receive anything.

Ang said that all employees will be back on their jobs today even as employees of the Court of Appeals and the Sandiganbayan also threatened to walk out of their jobs — also in protest against the implementing rules of the salary standardization law.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan said he cannot solve the wage problem, saying the matter has to be settled by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) which implements the new salary scheme.

"I cannot solve the problem because we already sent our recommendations to the DBM asking Budget Secretary

Guillermo Carague to approve a two per cent across the board increase of the total budget for our court employees," Fernan said.

He encouraged protesting employees to individually list

down their complaints so it can be studied and sent to Carague. He added that the apparent decrease in salaries is being compensated by the government which gives transitory allowances to employees.



Supreme Court employees protest inequities in salary law

Olongapo locals attack anti-bases priest

OLONGAPO CITY: Demonstrators supporting the retention of US bases stoned and cursed an Irish priest known for his opposition to the continued US military presence in the Philippines.

In Manila, riot police, exploding teargas and firing guns in the air, battled some 200 rock-throwing, anti-bases students marching toward the US embassy.

Two policemen and a news photographer, Joseph Capellan of the Associated Press, were injured in the clash between police and members of the League of Filipino Students. Police arrested Nathaniel Santiago, LES president, when he could not produce a rally permit.

The Olongapo demonstration, which drew the participation of thousands of bar girls, base workers and residents, took place as two Senate committees held a joint hearing on the future of the six US bases, whose lease expires in 1991.

During the hearing, Fr Shay Cullen, a

Columban priest argued for closing the installations. As he left the hotel where the hearings were held, protesters threw stones, cursed and swarmed around him.

One woman tried to hit him with a pro-base placard but tripped and missed. "You are not a Filipino, go home," several people shouted at the priest, a longtime resident of the Philippines and chairman of a drug rehabilitation centre.

Cullen retreated hotel. But as he left under police escort, demonstrators kicked and struck his car and 300 of them followed him to his house but did not try to force their way inside.

"We welcome this demonstration as a showcase of what kind of mentality the people of Olongapo have as a result of the Subic naval base here," Cullen said.

"Obviously, residents here were aroused by false propaganda." The demonstration was called amidst rumours that opponents of the bases

would stage a rally to demand their pullout. Olongapo depends on Subic Bay for its economic livelihood.

Almost all business establishments, including public markets, shops and nightclubs, were closed as early 6 am to demonstrate the inactivity that would result from the withdrawal of the base.

Public transport vehicles, including tricycles, refused to ply their routes.

But some residents said merchants closed their shops because they feared the city administration would cancel their licenses if they did not join in showing support for the bases.

"The sentiment of the people of Olongapo is that we are really not against the pullout of the bases but only if there is an alternative to them which is workable," vice-mayor Cynthia Cajudo told the Associated Press.

"The pullout of the bases could deprive a lot of Filipinos (of their jobs)," she

added. "What will the people eat when the bases close?"

During the public hearing chaired by Sen Leticia Ramos-Shahani, business, labour and the education leaders expressed opposition to two anti-bases resolutions filed in the Senate. Senate Resolution 601 "expresses the sense of the Senate that the phaseout of the presence of foreign military bases, troops and facilities that began in 1935 and should end in 1991." Another resolution, S.R. 605 "expresses the sense of the Senate in favour of the termination of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement in Sept 19, 1991 and urges President Aquino to serve notice of such termination on the United States at the earliest possible time."

Most of those who spoke at the hearing urged the government to include their representatives in any discussions on the future of the military bases here.

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The sophisticated world of fashion

MODA Maynila presented Eileen Ocampo and her team's mastery in haute couture for its 8th series at The Manila Hotel's Maynila. Ocampo's rich and opulent creations for the holidays were featured, as well as exclusively-designed evening footwear of Caterino El Pigi, while Creation Canal provided its stylish line of eyewear.

Highlight of the show was Ocampo's elegant numbers in satin, lace, brocade and organza in cuts that emphasize fit in flowing or close to the body lines.

Around 200 fashion designers and manufacturers are participating, including the Associated Apparel, Inc., ACC Enterprises, Angela's Merchandising and Arcus Merchandising.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be ongoing fashion shows and skin care demonstrations to be conducted by leading beauty experts. A series of seminars will also be held.

The theme for this year's event is "Fashion: Reflections of the Total You," a concept which provides each buyer the opportunity to take on the latest trends and improve one's total outlook and image.

featured during the invitational buyers show of Fairmont Cebu at the third floor of the New Farmers Plaza. Directed by Oscar Atendido, the "innocent" show presented collections from Angie's, Aspin, Jose Barabie and Paper Dolls for ladies. For men, featured clothes were from Pasanti, Vion, Gentlemen, Lodge and Bench. The cocktail clothes of guest designers Ernie Uy and Peter Lim were the finale.

Fashion Fair '89

The biggest fashion event of the year unfolded at the Philippine Centre for International Trade and Exhibitions (Philtex), Fashion Fair '89 a fitting showcase of the industry's best in headgear, footwear, accessories, and clothes. Reigning Miss Asia-Pacific Lorna Legaspi will cut the ceremonial ribbon at 6 pm along with Digna Rosales, president of the Fashion Designers' Association of the Philippines.

The ceremonial ribbon-cutting will be followed by a delightful fashion show dubbed "Sal-houettes," where some of the country's models will make it alive and vibrant the fashion showcases of the time.

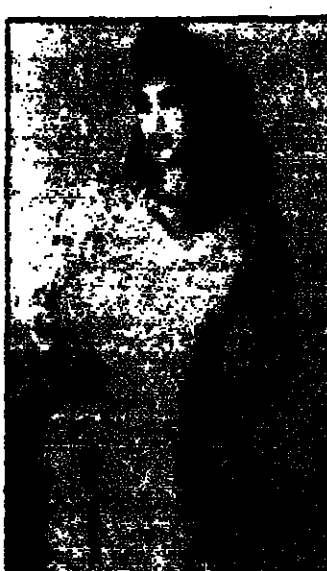
Exhibit showcase

More than a hundred names in garments and fashion business will make fair and colourful early Christmas shopper's delight. Find the perfect headgear for your pretty little heads, from ribbons to bows, hats to headbands, or the long array of sleek and classy collections.

Put your best foot forward with the best shoes that spell comfort, class and durability. Accompany your kind of personality with a carefully crafted bracelet, a black leather belt, brass-colored earrings, or just the right accessories. And a lot of clothes! Rugged, sexy, formal, sexy, name it.

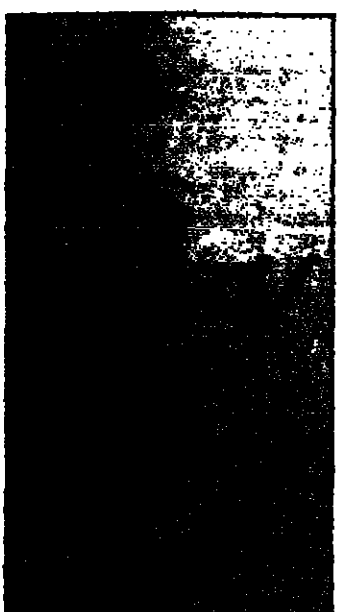
Aside from this glamorous come-out, Fashion Fair '89 also features the latest in hair and make-up, virtually setting the trend in creating the "Total Look of the '90s."

Now on its eighth year, Fashion Fair '89, according to Teresa J. Ramos, exhibitions manager, "is now bigger and more important in the sense that we are offering quality products from private entrepreneurs who someday we believe would be



Bernardo Shows off the latest design from Preference

names in the garments industry." Organized by Philtex, the fair is, of course, high-lighted by the special participation of some of the country's big names in fashion designing. Find them in the fair: Johnny Abad, Alex Bitong, Manuel Bonada, Gino Fernando, Peter Lim, Ronald Mendoza, Esmeralda Ocampo, Dita Sandico Ong, Bobby Novenario, Rene Salud, Edgar San Diego, Ching Santos, Tami Sempio Bautista, and Ernie Uy. These designers are expected to feature their own holiday collections.



A model dons Eileen Ocampo's creation and Caterino El Pigi shoes for a fashion show at the Maynila restaurant.

Inno Sotto gala show coming up

A GALA fashion presentation titled Inno Sotto Luxe Wear '90 Numerals will be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on Nov 28, for the benefit of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Chapel.

Second as the major sponsor will present the 100 plus holiday collection. Other sponsors are Diet Coca-Cola, Almandine, Garnet & Sornal, Pida, Unwido, Pico Arts and Nescalc Classic.

The set design will be done by Inno Sotto while Louise Ocampo will play original musical scores for the show. Direction is by Wanda Lovatation. Hair and make-up will be done by Henry Calayag. Executive producers are Bong Carrion de Caceres and Nini R. Licaros. Tickets are available at the Manila Hotel lobby and at Inno Sotto Made to Order shop, tel. 521-81-93.

Espinosa vs Mexican

SAN FRANCISCO — Filipino boxer Luisito Espinosa, newly crowned World Boxing Association bantamweight champion, will fight Los Angeles-based Eduardo Lopez in ten-round non-title bout at the Cow Palace here on Dec 1.

It will be the first Bay Area appearance of Espinosa, since winning the California bantam crown last year.

The card is promoted by Gabriel Elorde, Jr. son of the legendary Flash Elorde, one of the Philippines' boxing greats.

Espinosa's opponent is a highly Mexican fighter who has fought some of the best in the junior featherweight class. He has reportedly racked up a record of 20 wins, against six losses. Both

boxers will be fighting at 122 lbs. Another interesting bout in the card is a return match between North American Boxing Federation bantam champion Gerardo Martinez of San Jose, California, and Edcel Geronimo of Manila.

The Dec 1 card is attracting a lot of attention and interest here in the Bay Area which has a large Filipino-American community.

For one thing, Filipino old timers have not seen a Filipino boxing champion fight here since the great Flash Elorde knocked out Harold Gomez in the first round of a junior lightweight-world championship bout at the Cow Palace in the early 1960s.

shocking upset in Bangkok. "It's not stretching it too much to claim Espinosa for this area, although he is a native of the Philippines."

"Remember, Olson is Hawaiian-born and after campaigning early on in Honolulu he settled in San Francisco before he won the title.

The Earthquake "And the 22-year-old Espinosa had appeared here twice, once when he won the California state crown."

When in California, Espinosa is based in Newark, a city in the East Bay where the family of his manager, Hermie Rivera, lives.

The San Francisco Examiner, for its part, has christened the Filipino champion, "The Earthquake."

The reason for this, according to the Examiner, is that Espinosa won the WBA bantam crown in Bangkok on Oct 18, which was Oct 17 here, the day the massive earthquake shook the Bay Area.

Another reason, the Examiner added, is Espinosa's punching power, described as "cataclysmic" by sportswriter Anton Perera of the Bangkok Nation, who covered the WBA bout in the Thai capital.

Espinosa himself is little amused by all this — whether he is "The Earthquake" or whether his punch is "cataclysmic."

Right now his attention is focused on the forthcoming fight, training daily at a gym in nearby San Jose.



Filipino model wins Asean title

FILIPINO model Michelle Laconico, a runner-up in the 1988 Super Model contest and now a resident model of the new John Robert Powers Modelling Agency, was declared winner in the modelling contest during the Asean Designers Competition held recently at the Mandarin Singapore ballroom. For her prize, Michelle will fly to Paris for modelling assignments for a period of two months. Michelle Laconico is the fifth model of fashion director Oscar Atendido to win in a modelling contest. The other winners were Super Model '88 Adele Go, Look of the Year '89 Lou Buny, Face of the Year '89 Jennifer Pingree and Miss Asia-Pacific Lorna Legaspi.

Exciting newcomers at Reverie Lounge

FROM the roster of the select group of newcomers that graced the "Out-to-Lounge" series (Parts 1 and 2), three highly talented and very pretty singers step up the Reverie Lounge's stage as its regular live performers. The exciting new finds are petite but power packed Natalie Castel whose range of songs list moving ballads, difficult jazz selections, upbeat pop and pop Latin hits and one-of-a-kind medleys; energetic, versatile and sultry Elaine Carriedo who brings her lounge audiences to a fantastic musical journey through time; and beautiful and soulful Mica whose top 40 line up is a sheer delight to listen to.

The three artists take shifts in the venue's Thursday, Friday and Saturday slots this November through December.

Each of them promises three mini-concert portions of special numbers with production highlights every show. All three can also be heard playing their strums over 88.3 City Lights.

Reverie is also now open as a venue for mini-concerts and concert series. Its entertainment features are managed and promoted by Fame Inc.

Embassy corner

WITH regard to your Embassy Corner, Oct 1, Sunday edition, can you elaborate Senate Bill 1003? How can we double our earnings? Which banks here in Kuwait are connected with PNB (Philippine National Bank)? Please feature more about overseas workers.

AC Martinez, Salaita

AS mentioned in the Oct 1 column, Senator Alberto Romulo is the main proponent of Senate Bill 1003. Actually, this is an old bill that has been and is being resurrected from time to time. Unfortunately, it has not gained much ground because of long-range implications on our economy. Roughly, the idea is to encourage overseas contract workers to remit their earnings through the government banking system, you may please approach Thelma Sanid in the embassy.

We take this opportunity to clarify that in fact, the purpose of this column is to establish a dialogue between the embassy and persons or parties having interests in the Philippines. As such, our focus will be on Filipino contract workers' problems and the promotion of investments and tourism to the Philippines. For this, we will need constant feedback from the public on whether our column is pursuing the right direction or not. Please continue to write us so we may know what problems to address among members of the Filipino community in Kuwait.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES YOU WISH THE EMBASSY TO REPLY TO AND HAVE THEM PRINTED IN THIS NEWSPAPER, PLEASE ADDRESS THEM TO PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, P.O. BOX NO. 26288 SAFAT 13123 KUWAIT, ATTN: EMBASSY CORNER, ARAB TIMES.

Keno bares multi-faceted talents

"KENO: A Friend" is such a simple title of a major concert for a high-artistic fellow like Keno.

"Why not this title? I believe it works well with what I am presenting in my concert. Something really sincere — just a lot of fun and friendship to offer to all those who watched the Ultra. There's something for everybody in this concert," he says.

Still on the subject of friendship, Keno's concert is based on the contents of his signature hit called "A Friend."

"The song speaks for itself. Listen to this: 'I've still been searching... and long have I waited... for someone to like me as I. I guess all of us are social animals... we need to be with someone always. Friendship eases the pain of living and it makes waking up for tomorrow possible,' the ever profound Keno told us.

Keno has been four years in

show business and in that span of time, he continues to keep up the same enthusiasm he had when he was just starting. He has also kept an open mind about his not-being-so-hot-an-item these days. "I guess I have created my own market — a steady set of following who has followed the trail of my career. In fact, I cannot pinpoint which audience market I am exactly target now because they are a cross-section of nine-year-olds to even oldies," he said.

But what kept us more interested on him is his growth as a musician. A former Dyna artist, Keno has turned to Boss Orly Ilacad and Tita Aster Amoyo for his original recording materials in the Octo Arts-released album "A New Beginning."

The album boasts of an innovative approach in cultivating Keno's unemphasized mastery of pop-new wave tracks. "A New Beginning" casts

Keno in more energetic numbers as "I Gave It All," his most recent hit and the album's first release.

Then came the Tagalog, a capella version of the song "Damdamin Ko," which we thought was performed by another local singer. Keno sounded different in this tune which focused on his smooth, solid voice. "Damdamin Ko is an adaptation of the song 'The Way I Feel (Inside)' a hit by the Zombies in the 60s. At first Mr Ilacad did not like the idea of releasing it as a single so I have to tell him that I feel the song will do good because it has a strong recall. Besides, Filipinos love novelty acts and this one is one for the record," Keno says.

Aside from singing his own materials, the concert "A Friend," highlights on not so popular tunes but are expected to draw sighs of appreciation from the crowd. Examples are Rock Springfield's "Life is a Celebration," a middle-of-the-road rock and roll song; "Will Never Say Goodbye," a song called from the soundtrack "Sing"; "Colour Me Lonely" which Keno wrote and a Gospel song by Sandi Patti titled "Love in Any Language". In the latter song, Keno will be backed-up by the Maranatha Dancers and they are performing for free — just a gift of love, Keno informed us.

Guesting in "A Friend" are comedians Ai-Ai delas Alas and Jon Santos. "I thought of guesting them because laughter is synonymous with friendship," Keno enthused. "Aside from the comic relief, there is of course the pretty girls with the voices — Jamie Rivera and Vina Morales. I will also be introducing the twin called The Crackers who can both dance and sing." Keno is directing his own concert while



Keno: 'a friend'

From the provinces

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has considered close the case of attempted murder on former mayor Antonio N. Foruch, 47, of Quezon, Bukidnon with the filing of criminal charges against a suspect.

Although the suspect is now in the custody of the NBI, his identity was temporarily withheld. He is also facing a charge of illegal possession of firearms which was filed earlier by the NBI.

The suspect, in his affidavit, implicated a Bukidnon mayor who allegedly offered him P40,000 for the assassination of Foruch. The NBI said that the suspect got the murder weapon from the Bukidnon mayor.

The suspect alleged that after shooting Foruch, he tried to collect his fee from the mayor who, he said, refused to give him the agreed amount because Foruch was only wounded and was not killed.

Instead of the agreed P40,000, he was offered P1,000 with instruction to escape from Bukidnon, he said. He added that he was warned not to tell anyone about the crime.

Mayor Foruch was wounded by an assassin's bullet last Aug 28 while he was attending a fiesta in barangay Mansalera, Quezon.

den Hall of the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden.

The guest of honour was to be Sen. Edgardo J. Angara who is the proponent of the Air Force Academy together with Congresswoman Lorna L. Verano-Yap and Congressman Vicente Rivera Jr.

The awarders will include retired vice chief of staff AFP Lt. Gen. Antonio E. Sotelo and PAF vice commanding general Brig. Gen. Romulo I. Querubin.

PASAY CITY: The regional trial court (RTC) here reset this week the promulgation of its decision on a dollar-smuggling case involving a millionaire businessman.

Postponed for Nov 10 was the promulgation of the decision on the case filed by the government against Louis C. Co of San Juan, Metro Manila.

RTC Judge Sofronio Sayo reset the promulgation when Co's lawyers manifested that the accused has been confined at the Makati Medical Centre for treatment of a heart ailment.

When Pasay City Assistant Prosecutor Angel Ragasa did not object, Sayo ordered the deferment of the promulgation.

Co was indicted for violation of the Central Bank Act, specifically on the smuggling of dollars.

He was arrested on July 11, 1987 at the then Manila International Airport in an attempt to bring out of the country some \$150,000, according to the criminal charge sheet.

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City: Brig. Gen. Alejandro A. Galido, chief of the Southern Luz Command (Solcom) here, has decreed the "habit by certain mediamen" of linking his command to any report of involvement of PC or Army soldiers in crimes, particularly bank holdups.

The Solcom head was specifically referring to a recent armed car holdup case in Makati, Metro Manila in which a reporter of a morning daily had reported that a suspect is "assigned to Solcom according to a source."

The same report said that "Solcom headed by General Galido has been tagged as the base of operations of at least 20 criminal syndicates operating in Luzon." He said the report "is unfair and libelous."

General Galido explained that Solcom is an umbrella organization composed of four AFP units. These are the PC, Army, Navy, and Air Force in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog province.

If a PCS soldier, for instance, is involved in a bank holdup, the Solcom is not his immediate unit but it is either the provincial command or PC-INP regional command.

LEGAZIPI CITY: The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) strength may weaken soon if it continues its alleged bad treatment of political leaders in the Bicol region, political analysts said yesterday.

They said the internal bickering among political leaders here have enabled the Liberal Party (LP) to be the party most likely to attract disgruntled LDP members.

The bickering, analysts said, were precipitated by the LDP leadership's show of support to cronies of the late former President Marcos instead of candidates who sacrificed for President Aquino during the last local elections.

45 WORKERS seek POEA help: Forty-five workers sought the help this week of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for the arrest of three alleged illegal recruiters from Marcelo Green Subdivision in Paranaque accused of cheating them of P500,000 in fictitious jobs in Taiwan.

Dr. Angelina Punzalan, barangay captain of Marcelo Green, said the workers, led by Victor Aquino, trooped to the barangay hall to ask the POEA to arrest three men who reportedly promised them jobs in Taiwan.

The three reportedly got P10,000 in cash from each victim last March and told them they will be immediately sent to Taiwan as factory workers.

Punzalan said the three even issued receipts to the complainants.

MANILA: President Aquino submitted recently to the Commission on Appointments (CA) for confirmation the nomination of Benjamin B. Domingo as chief of mission, Class II in the Depart-

ment of Foreign Affairs, and Lt. Col Lucito Q. Ramos' promotion to colonel in the medical corps (General Staff corps) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, CA chairman, has referred Domingo's nomination to the CA's committee on foreign affairs led by Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio V. Cuenco and Lt. Col Ramos' promotion to the committee on national defense, led by Sen Mamintal A.J. Tamano, for deliberation.

CA Secretary Raoul V. Victoriano said any opposition to these nominations must be in writing and under oath and submitted at least two days before the committee hearings to the CA Secretariat, 8th Floor, Kanlon Towers 1 (Traders Royal Bank Bldg), Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

BALANGA, Bataan: At least 22 persons were confirmed dead in the wake of typhoon "Saling" which devastated the Bataan peninsula last week.

Of the casualties, 12 were residents of Mariveles, provincial social welfare officer Mely S. Pangilinan said. In a report to Celia C. Yungco, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Central Luzon, Pangilinan said 6,364 houses were destroyed by the howler.

District Engineer Rogelio N. Fernando placed the damage to roads, bridges, barangay roads, and river control facilities, including seawalls, at P10,300,000 in a report to Gov. Leonardo B. Roman. Bataan schools superintendent Carolina Tria told Roman, chairman of the provincial disaster co-ordinating council, that "Saling" destroyed 80 per cent of public school buildings in the province. (Eileen Molina).

MAKATI: Meralco said that a lineman, Alfredo K. de la Cruz, died while trying to restore electric power in barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati.

About 70 per cent or 304 of 437 circuits have been restored. Meralco reported a load of 1,092 megawatts, 1,008 megawatts less its normal load of 2,100 mw. About 80 per cent of electric power has been restored in Metro Manila as of press time.

Meralco said restoration work started even while typhoon "Saling" was raging. It has fielded all its emergency crews, and electricity in problem areas like Cavite, Las Pinas, and Pampanga.

As this developed, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems called up Meralco, saying it is ready to help waterless residents.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Meralco customers called radio stations on where they could send their donations to the lineman who died.

SAN FERNANDO, La Union: At least four officers and sixteen enlisted men of the Philippine Constabulary and Integrated National Police (INP) in the Ilocos region are being investigated by the regional provost marshal for various offenses ranging from abuse of authority to maltreatment.

Lt Col Angelio Gerango, region provost marshal, in a report to Brig. Gen. Miguel Abaya, Recon Commander, said that some of the complaints against policemen and constables were contained in anonymous letters which were later verified to have some basis for investigation and prosecution.

Gerango said that they have withheld the identities of those being investigated to protect them from undue trial by publicity.

He said that the probers are investigating some men in uniform who are reportedly engaged in illegal activities in Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

COTABATO CITY: Elements of Philippine Coast Guard and other Armed Forces units here intercepted the other day M/V Clorion while it was about to enter a river and seized what apparently were firearms and ammunition in "chop-chop" forms.

The "chop-chop" guns were found among the baggage of one Masrudin Abdul Sangko, 22, a native of Maguindanao, who was partially wearing a fatigue uniform. He was carrying an identification card with the name Pfc. Kajubun B. Nua.

Commo. Pfc. H. Garrido, Jr. PCG commandant, has directed the station commander here, Lt Sgt Emerson Parjea, to conduct a thorough investigation of the case.

'Multimedia' to rival TV

Trends in computer

NEW YORK (AP)—The personal computer of the 1990s will be a blend of 3-D television and quadraphonic stereo, with the hand controls of a video game machine and more speed than the car-sized mainframes of the 1980s.

Silicon chips burning through a billion instructions a second will be able to surround the user with the sights and sounds of an early morning in Paris or an erupting Hawaiian volcano.

"Multimedia" computers will rival television for attention.

A computer is the most patient teacher, which is why many students blossom when they practice math or spelling on it. Computers of the '90s will simulate a four-lane highway for driver's education classes or a flask of hydrochloric acid for chemistry — perhaps rivaling television for young people's attention.

"You could have a tremendous explosion of human knowledge over the next decade. This could not only accelerate people's learning process but make a boatload of money," said William Zachmann, president of Canopus Research in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Decline

"Infotainment" and other trends in computers are being propelled by a ceaseless decline in the price of computing power, a decline that opens up previously unimaginable possibilities.

Cheaper chips will add smarts to things people use every day, from toasters to the telephone system. They will become so common that people will stop remarking on them, the way people stopped talking about "transistor" radios once all radios had transistors.

In the 1990s, computers will extend the human reach in every field from weather forecasting to sex therapy.

"We increasingly call them people amplifiers," said Karl Joseph, a futurist who heads Anticipatory Sciences Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dangerous

Any dependence can be dangerous, and the dangers from computers range from power failures and accidental bugs in the software to maliciously planted viruses and the ever-present threat of big brotherism.

Computer viruses are the social disease of technology and will be combated by limiting things that made computing fun in the 1980s, like sharing software and communicating in networks.

As for big brotherism, the US government's Los Alamos national laboratory is exploring using brain-like "neural networks" for voice identification. That could allow computers to monitor phone networks and locate people by the calls they make, although that's not Los Alamos' intention.

Harvard University researchers are experimenting with similar machines that recognize faces. Theoretically they could be used in airports and bus terminals to search for

enemies of the state — again, not Harvard's intention.

Along with the threat of cold efficiency comes the threat of computer-aided blunders, as with the Michigan man who was arrested five times after a murder suspect stole his wallet and used his identification.

Here is some of what we can expect in the 1990s:

● Machine translation of language will help put Americans in touch with the rest of the world. Computers already can crudely translate printed material, and automatic translation of live speech is on the way. But beware: one system in Europe translated the French "nous avions" (we were having) as "US airplanes."

● Telerobots with human guidance will clean up crippled nuclear reactors and scour sclerotic arteries. Unlike their crude ancestors, they will be able to go about their work without moment-to-moment instructions. One unerring possibility is military robots — "telegadgets" — that would lower the threshold of war by removing people from the battlefield.

Dubious

● Artificial intelligence is not going to create a human brain in silicon by the end of the 20th century. That dubious achievement may lie another century off. But spinoffs will be everywhere, such as an "agent" that scans data to assemble an electronic newspaper tailored to its boss's interests.

The question will remain of how far computers can be trusted. It used to be said that computers do only what people tell them to do, but that is no longer the case.

The European-built Airbus A20, which will fly and land itself, is a safe plane that depends on computers for its safety.

Pilots can override the automatic pilot, but the computer will prevent any extreme maneuver that could damage the plane. Some veteran pilots worry the limitation could prevent them from taking heroic action to save lives. Others say the automatic pilot is so good that pilots would be unprepared if it ever malfunctioned.

Problems

In a serious accident at a modern nuclear power plant, dozens of red lights can flash simultaneously indicating problems with pressures, temperatures and water levels.

Utilities are trying to cope with the "Christmas tree problem" with computer systems that will filter out low-priority alarms and identify what they figure to be the heart of a problem.

Operators will not have to take the computer's diagnosis for a fact; they can probe deeper to find out the data and assumptions that went into it. But in a red alert, with seconds ticking away and catastrophe possibly at hand, the person at the control panel may well just take the computer's word.



Gary Lineker feeds his namesake at London Zoo.

Giraffe to stay at London Zoo

Gary adopts Gary

GARY Lineker and his wife Michelle introduce their newborn baby to the world — Gary Lineker Junior.

Well, almost. Their new "son" is a month-old giraffe. He is not only named after England football star Gary, but has also been adopted by him.

Gary told me: "It's very nice to have an animal named after me. I'm honoured — it doesn't happen every day."

But Gary the giraffe will stay at London Zoo, much to the disappointment of Michelle Lineker who wanted her husband's namesake to live in their garden. Gary, the human one, was a bit concerned about the long-necked one eating his trees.

However, the couple lives just up the road in north London and can visit the zoo easily.

When asked if he thought there were any similarities between him and Gary the giraffe, Tottenham Hotspur's striker told me: "The ears!"

Other "celebrity" giraffes including ones named after boxer Henry Cooper, tennis player Annabel Croft, mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary and Olympic decathlete Daley Thompson.

Hang up gently

Tips to deal with telephone pests

THE phone rang. Miriam answered it. It was an obscene caller. He asked her what colour her knickers were. She replied: "Regulation navy blue police woman knickers." The caller hung up and never rang again.

This may be an amusing incident, but the problem of obscene phone calls is widespread. Estimates have been put at eight million calls a year in the UK — or 20,000 calls each day.

They range from obscenities, threats, suggestions to heavy breathing or silence. It may seem a minor offence, but women who have received obscene calls rate them as highly as domestic burglaries on their scale of fear.

Ray Wyre is a consultant therapist at the Gracewell Clinic in Birmingham. He often treats sex offenders with a history of making obscene calls.

He said: "Male callers are looking for a reaction. A display of anger, ridicule, embarrassment or fear will often encourage them to keep calling."

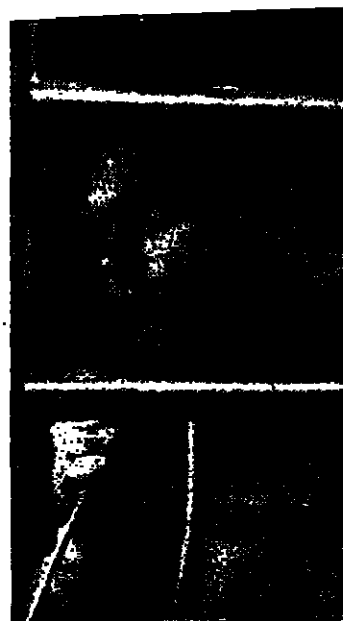
Bob Raggett, Deputy Director of Corporate Relations for British Telecom (BT), agrees. He told me: "If a woman shows emotion, such as being angry or distressed, this can set people off and turn them on."

"A woman should put the phone down. But the caller will just go on to another number," he said.

British Telecom has set up a task force, led by Jan Walsh, to tackle the problem. Jan said: "There have been obscene calls ever since the telephone was invented, but now people are more willing to talk about the problem."

"It is not one that British Telecom can solve on its own. That is why the task force is working closely with the police, representatives of telephone user's organisations and some of the victims of these calls. We are doing everything we can to solve it."

The great majority of those who receive obscene calls are women. Jan has several pieces of advice for them. She said: "They should just use initials not first names in the phone directory, so



The problem of obscene phone calls is widespread.

not revealing their sex."

She also advises parents to teach children not to say "Mummy is out" when they answer the phone.

Jan says the best way to deal with obscene calls is to report them to the police. She added: "Hang up gently. Many phone pests like nothing better than an exchange of insults. Do not give the caller that satisfaction. Simply hang up."

Ray Wyre suggests a subtler approach. He said: "If you decide to talk to him, try asking 'I wonder what your girlfriend, mother, wife or sister would feel if they were put through this?'"

Ray, author of *Women and Rape*, told me that as a man he is reluctant to tell women what to do. But he does have a number of suggestions.

Like Jan Walsh, he suggests quietly hanging up. He also recommends keeping a whistle by the phone — and giving it a shrill blow into the receiver — or leaving an answering machine on all the time. This enables you to vet calls as they come in.

Bob Raggett told me: "We can put an operator intercept on the line for no charge. Every call that number is intercepted by the

operator, who interrogates the caller before putting them through."

Ultimately, the phone number can be changed for a fee of £25 and the person can become a directory, or for £11 the phone can be converted to outgoing calls only.

Bob said one reason the menace is so common is because fines for culprits who are caught are "derisory." The maximum fine is just £400. He said: "The biggest deterrent to a caller is having his name printed in the paper."

Bob divides obscene calls into two types: 80 per cent are known to their victims and attracted to them; the other 20 per cent are "real nutters," who have an illness and dial numbers at random.

He said: "Callers can be anyone, which is why it is so difficult to trace them. They can be motivated by lust or jealousy."

Ray Wyre added to this. He said: "Some have distorted thinking and believe the calls are a joke and do not have an effect on women. But the most common are the suggestive ones."

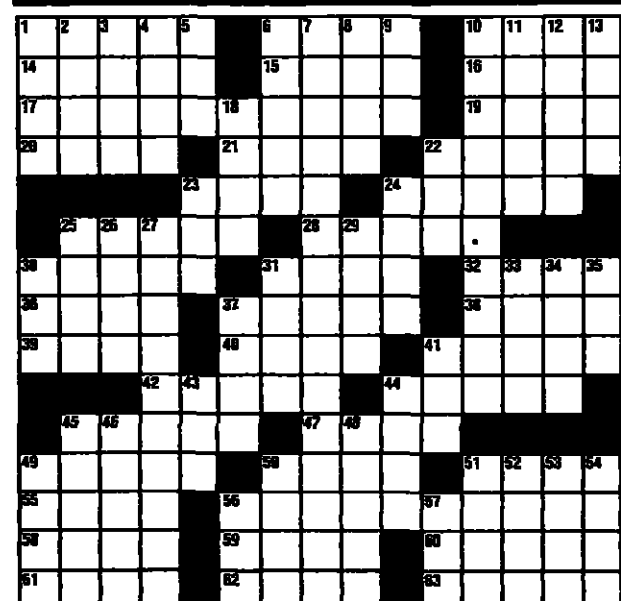
Researcher Dr Kenneth Pease, senior lecturer in social administration at Manchester University, has found that the most likely victims of obscene calls are young, separated or divorced women living in inner-city areas.

Dr Pease told me: "Women who are victimised in this way rate it as highly as domestic burglary in terms of fear."

A Liverpool nurse knows the stress of the calls. She said: "I began last March. I came home from night shift and a man called. He was polite to begin with. Then came the filth. I slammed down the phone. Moments later he was back. I tried to argue with him but he saw a doctor. He became even more foul."

In the following month, she received more than 300 calls. She telephoned the police, but they said there was nothing they could do. She called British Telecom who offered to change her number. Five days after the new number was installed, the calls resumed.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Whisper-snapper
 - Small bit
 - Aids nest
 - High nest
 - Son of Jacob
 - Start of a Grimm tale
 - New and improved?
 - Expensive
 - Diagram
 - Equal
 - Does a library job
 - Torch —
 - Trapper's trophies
 - David et al.
 - Ancient artifact
 - Amalgam
 - Supernatural force, in anthropology
 - Some actors
 - Uttered
 - Indian Rebellion of 1857
 - Seine sights
 - Graf —
 - Expressions of displeasure
 - Speedy
 - Veranda, on Maui
 - West Pointer
 - Hand-dyed fabric
 - Chesterfield, for one
 - Yeoman
 - Astronomer Sagan
 - Name for a Fratline
 - Taj Mahal site
 - Ideals
 - French roast
 - Earthenware vessel
 - Varnish ingredient
- DOWN**
- Musical of baseball
 - Bill who played Hopalong
 - Try
 - Become misshapen
 - Command to a canine
 - Columist
 - Bombard
 - Social or literary one
 - Child: Comb. form
 - Stevie or Woody
 - By wire
 - Finished
 - Before day or night
 - Exemplary youth
 - Concerning 12 Oceans
 - Towel word
 - Heroic poem of 1857
 - Secret agent
 - Drama
 - Applaud
 - ...sin to
 - Popular Christmas present
 - Son of Seth
 - Silly one
 - Mighty prefix
 - To the sheltered side
 - Track event
 - Fast plane, for short
 - Submerged form
 - Be under the weather
 - Serene
 - Sired
 - Main artery
 - Nymph
 - Components of 27 Down
 - USAF Acad. state
 - Brilliant thought
 - Fewer
 - Cut
 - Toller, of old
 - A Reiner
 - Scrap
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- SCRAP I RIBS PAILM
OHARA NANA AMIA
LEMON HEDY ROAR
DRAMATIZE WORRY
ACED XERXESI
OWN HEIR MAY
CHEYENNE UPSHOT
HIERA GAM MATH
STORMY PARASITE
DIE SHIP LOY
ALASKAN ACRO
CONTE ANTHOLOGY
TITI ROAM PIMAS
ERIC EMMA OVATIE
DECK PIES SANIER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 4
♥ J 10 9
♦ A K Q 8
♣ A K J

WEST
♠ Q 10 7 3
♥ 6 4
♦ J 10 3
♣ 10 9 8 4

EAST
♠ 5
♥ K 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 7 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 5

The bidding:
South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♥ Pass 5 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Don't look at a particular card combination in the abstract. Consider the whole hand. How you play one holding could be affected by what happens elsewhere, and vice versa. As an example, study this hand and decide what card you would lead from dummy at trick two after you win West's opening diamond lead.

No sooner had South opened the bidding than North decided to drive

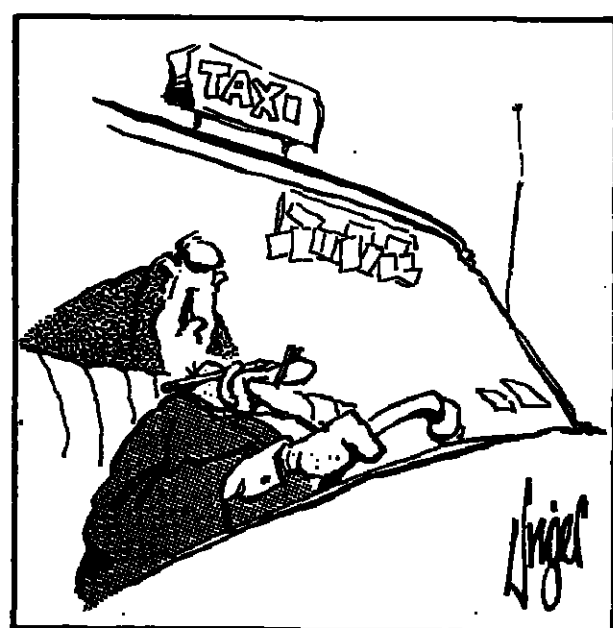
the hand to slam. However, there was no need to respond more than two diamonds and consume bidding space unnecessarily. We are surprised, though, at North's choice of final contract. With a balanced 21 count, we would have opted for 6 no trump.

Against six spades West led the ten of clubs. The minor suits were going to provide declarer with three discards, but declarer would still have to rely on a finesse to avoid a heart loser. Then there was the question of the trump suit. Have you decided what to do yet?

Take full credit if you elected to run the jack of hearts at the second trick. Why? Because you don't know how to play the trump suit until you know whether you have a heart loser!

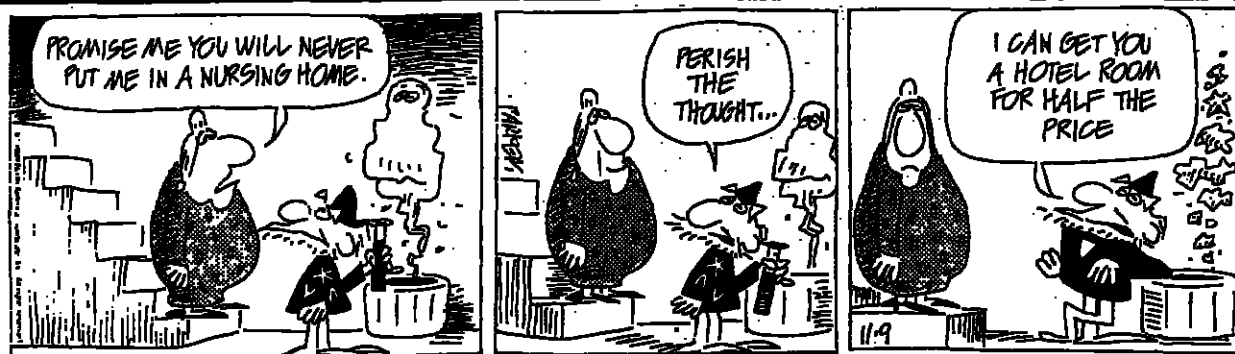
Suppose the jack of hearts loses to West's king. Now you cannot afford to surrender a trump trick as well. Your best shot, therefore, is to cash the king of trumps and then finesse the jack.

But when the jack of hearts wins, you can protect against the possibility of losing two trump tricks. Cash the ace of trumps and lead toward dummy, simply covering any card that West produces. As long as trumps are no worse than 4-1, you have limited your losers in the suit to one.



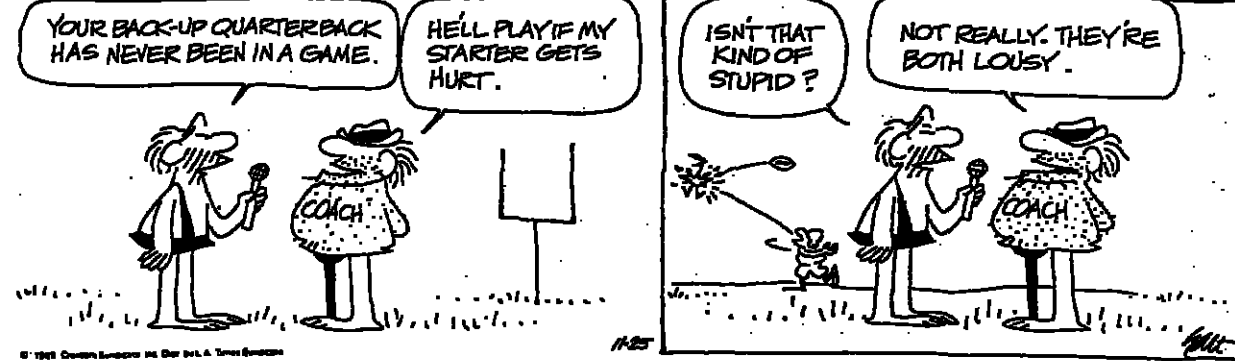
"Hey, Pops, d'you think you can make the airport by Tuesday?"

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Do not do anything that would make anyone close to you feel let down. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 19. Give a little more attention to a personal matter. Make sure you pay your bills promptly. Be prompt.

Someone could well be rude to you, do not reply in kind. Make sure you do not allow subjective considerations to cloud your judgment. Avoid exceeding speed or other limits and stay within the law. Be generous.

A promise you have made should be kept cost what it may. You will be able to deal with a problem that has bothered you. Do not do anything you know would be on your conscience. Be prompt.

Something that you had hopes of will turn out to be a waste of time. You will have some personal success. You should expect others always to agree with you but you should avoid getting into an argument. Be tolerant.

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(AT2-50336-3)

Available

SALMIYA, Amman Street, opp Al Rashid Hospital. Single room in a 2 bedroom flat for a couple, family or bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tel. 5627309, 10 am onwards.
(AT2-50318-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharaq, behind the City Restaurant. One room in a double bedroom CAC flat with tele, electricity and water, for 3 Indian bachelors. Rent KD30 each. Tel. Hussain, 2427546, res. 9 am - 1 pm, 2448800, 5 - 9 pm.
(AT1-50322-3)

DAIYA Abdulla Al Salem for European executive family, 2 floors of large CAC villa. Newly furnished and decorated. Interested please Tel. 2528572.
(AT6-50291-3)

RUMATHIYA, Block 6. Spacious Kuwaiti house with tele facilities for a Muslim couple, to share with a Muslim family. Tel. 5811308.
(AT1-50327-3)

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KUWAIT City, opp GPO, accommodation for working Christian men/women to share with a decent family. Tel. Norbert, 5842178.
(AT1-50308-3)

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(AT1-50310-3)

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SHETLAND family cabin cruiser, 18 ft, 115 hp, mercury engine still running in, with trailer, new, engine leaving Kuwait. KD3,500 onco. Tel. 5384873
(AT1-50313-3)

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BMW 735i, 1987, full options, 42,000 kms, manual, with sunroof and leather seat, like new. KD6750. Tel. Khader, 5716473, after 1 pm.
(AT6-50288-3)

HYUNDAI Stellar GSI, '88, fully automatic, with AC, in excellent condition. KD700, onco. Tel. 5640865 after 2.30 pm.
(AT2-50308-3)

CELEBRITY, 1988, full option, low mileage, metallic blue, for immediate sale at price KD2,750. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. Koshi, 5633630, after 4 pm.
(AT6-50319-3)

GALANT '82, white, manual gear, engine and brake recently overhauled. KD590. Cash. Tel. 3723264.
(AT6-50280-3)

CHRYSLER Le Baron, 1991, fully automatic, mushroom colour, interior partially re-upholstered. New battery and tyres, registered up to March 1990, regularly serviced, in good condition. KD825. Tel. Mr. Edward, 4833783, 7 am - 4.30 pm, 5748023, after 8 pm.
(AT1-50321-3)

MERCEDES Benz 280S, 1985, full options, dark blue, 55,000 kms, immaculately maintained by Al Baher for immediate sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD5900 (fixed). Tel. 2408487 10 am - 1 pm.
(AT1-50305-3)

IMPALA '79, insured up to 1/3/1990, recently installed rebuilt engine and compressor and new battery. KD575, onco. Tel. 4314802.
(AT2-50355-3)

Miscellaneous

COMPLETE bedroom set, extendable dining table and 4 chairs, fridge, curtains and single bed. All are in very good condition. Tel. Satish Chandra 4745270, 4745264.
(AT2-50335-3)

PHILIPS washing machine, latest chest type freezer, children cycle (8-15 years old), baby walker and rocking chair. Tel. 5643851, 2-6 pm.
(AT1-50311-2)

General refrigerator (giant), Philips 28", TV full remote control multi-systems, Akai VCR, remote control, 2 systems. All items are in immaculate condition. Reasonable price. Tel. 5811522.
(AT1-50312-3)

NAME CHANGE
I, Salvador Miranda holding Indian passport No. S 718309 hereby wish to change my name to Salvador Antonio Miranda.
(AT2-50328-2)

I, Younus Augustine holding Pakistani passport No. AJ 013005 embraced Islam and hereby wish to change my name to Mohammed Younus Augustine.
(AT2-50332-2)

PETS
SIAMESE kittens, 2, grey/white, female, 8 weeks old. KD20 each. Tel. 5639703 from 3.30 pm onwards.
(AT6-50289-3)

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CADILLAC 1980/81 in excellent condition for cash purchase. Tel. 5319189.
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(AT1-50315-3)

2 x ELEC Fries, 2 x cabinet speakers, 8 mm movie Canon camera, record/cassette camera, oil painting. Table 90x90x38 wood/glass, glass table chrome stand, Parrot, +stand and cage. Tel. Mr. Edward, 4833783, 7 am - 4.30 pm, 5748023 after 8 pm.
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(AT1-50323-3)

GENERAL refrigerator (giant), Philips 28", TV full remote control multi-systems, Akai VCR, remote control, 2 systems. All items are in immaculate condition. Reasonable price. Tel. 5811522.
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REQUIRED from Al Darya 3 to near Chappra (vegetable market) Shuwaikh near the Passport Office Shuwaikh from 7.30 am - 7 pm, 7.30 am - 12.30 and 3.30 - 6.30 pm. Tel. Mrs. Barretto, 4838571/2.
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World No. 1 routes Sukova

Graf, Sanchez reach semifinals

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (Agencies): Top seed Steffi Graf and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez both posted straight-set wins yesterday to reach the semifinals of the season-ending Women's Tennis Championships.

Graf needed only one healthy ankle to overpower seventh seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-1 in just 42 minutes, while the fourth-seeded Sanchez climbed out of a deep hole to beat eighth seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 7-5, 7-6.

Graf, who has been nursing a badly twisted left ankle, extended her domination of Sukova to 14 successive wins since losing their first encounter in 1983.

"I just never gave her a chance to do anything. It was very important to have an easy match so I can be fresh for tomorrow," said Graf, who was to face third-seeded defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in this evening's semifinals.

The West German world number one, who won this elite event in 1987, has not dropped a set to the eighth-ranked Sukova in their last 11 meetings.

Graf, winner of 13 titles this year including the US and Australian Opens and Wimbledon, used a pair of service breaks in each set to beat the Czechoslovak serve and volleyer.

Graf was never in trouble on her own serve. She surrendered just four points off her serve in the opening set and Sukova did not have a single break point in the match.



Sanchez (left) returns a shot to Maleeva while Graf gets ready to hit a backhand. (Reuter wirephoto)

About her injured ankle, Graf said: "Every day it's getting better. I'm just happy that I can play and that I've done so well."

Maleeva controlled the early points of her quarterfinals, setting up winners by running Sanchez from side to side to build a 5-2 lead.

But the 17-year-old Sanchez suddenly came to life and roared back to take five successive games.

The Spaniard broke Maleeva when the eighth seed was serving for the set by chasing down a sharply angled volley the width

of the court and smacking a backhand winner into the corner.

Maleeva then squandered three set points against Sanchez's serve at 5-4 and the Spaniard rolled through the remainder of the set.

"I started very slow," said the bubbly Sanchez. "But from 5-1 (actually 5-2) I started moving very good and I started to control the match."

The second set was free of service breaks, but the speedy teenager won the tiebreak 7-5 on her first match point with a mini-

break.

Sanchez fought back from a 5-2 deficit in the opening set to edge Maleeva.

The 17-year-old French Open champion, appearing in this season-ending championship for the first time, also came from behind in the tie-break, capturing the final three points to win it 7-5. Maleeva netted forehands on the last two points.

"I start very slow but after a 5-2 start I was moving the ball well and I go to the net," said Sanchez, the fourth seed. "Everything changed after the first set,

and I felt very confident."

Maleeva, with a steady baseline game, started strong by breaking service in the second and fourth games to take a 5-2 lead, and with just a little fortune could have won the set.

The 21-year-old Bulgarian squandered six break points in the sixth game and three set points in the 10th. On her final set point opportunity, Maleeva's attempt nudged the top of the net and fell back, allowing Sanchez to draw even at 5-5.

"I was just not winning the last point of these games," Maleeva said later.

Sanchez took the lead for the first time at 6-5 with a service break when Maleeva drove a backhand long. Maleeva had another chance when she reached break point in the 12th game but Sanchez, after double faulting on her first set point, cashed in the second to end the one-hour set.

"I feel I made her a nice present," Maleeva said. "I didn't find problems with her, it was me. If I had played a little more freely and relaxed, I never would have lost."

There were no service breaks in the second set and each woman had only a break point opportunity. Maleeva gained hers in the second game, and Sanchez had a break point in the 11th on a soft backhand pass.

Sanchez, who meets five-time champion Martina Navratilova in the semifinals, was not intimidated by the prospect.



Exhibition game

West German tennis player Boris Becker (right) examines scratches on the face of Swedish star Stefan Edberg after a benefit match in Kiel, Western Germany, on Friday. Edberg won the match 6-4, 6-2. (Reuter wirephoto)

'E. German stars will not leave in droves'

WEST BERLIN, Nov 18, (Reuters): East Germany's leading sports official yesterday dismissed ideas that droves of sports stars would leave the country to sell their skills for a higher price abroad following the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Klaus Eichler, head of the East German Sports Federation, said top athletes had privileges in the communist state and he was not worried many would be tempted to go to the West and drain the powerful sports nation of talent.

"I'm not a man who worries. Our athletes have gained from good results in sports," Eichler said. "We do not expect the recent changes to affect our success. That won't change."

However, East German newspapers yesterday reported verbal and physical attacks on the country's sports elite because of their privileged life-style, and that could make it more tempting to go to the West.

The communist youth daily Junge Welt said Kristin Otto, winner of six golds at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, was afraid to go out in public because of threats made against her. (Rowdies) recently smashed the car of fellow world and Olympic champion Heike Friedrich.

Others threatened to throw the baby of discus world champion Martina Hellmann out of the window, and unknown vandals slit the tyres on the car of speed-skating world champion Constanze Moser.

The officials ADN news agency reported yesterday that ex-star swimmer Kornelia Grummt, formerly Kornelia Endler, who won four golds and a silver at the 1976 Olympics, was moving to the West.

Sporting success in East Germany, which won the second highest number of gold medals at last year's Seoul Olympics, is widely believed to bring access to hard currency, performance bonuses, Western goods and foreign travel — something most other East Germans have had only for the past week.

But many in sports like soccer and athletics, where world-class performers can demand big money, will boost their earnings by joining clubs in the West.

Eichler said he would call a special meeting of leading East German athletes in the next month to discuss the future of sport. He said possibilities of transfers in professional sports outside the country would be discussed.

"But make no mistake, there is not going to be a big sale of our best stars," he said.

Eichler was talking after striking a new sporting deal with West Germany under which sports clubs from both countries can now arrange fixtures — meetings, matches and other competitions — with each other for the first time without officials approval since the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.

In the past clubs and national teams from East and West Germany could compete against each other only in events approved at a yearly meeting between their sports chiefs. Last year only 130 fixtures took place, although 500 were discussed.

Yesterday's decision is likely to triple the number of fixtures each year, West German officials said.

Jansher, Martin triumph

HOUSTON, Texas, Nov 18, (Reuters): Top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan and second seed Rodney Martin of Australia set up a showdown for the US Open squash title by winning their semifinal matches yesterday.

World Champion Jansher beat Brett Martin, Rodney's older brother, in straight games by 15-5, 15-7, 15-9. Jansher's better control of the pace of the game and near error-free squash enabled him to claim victory in just under 50 minutes.

Rodney Martin lost the third game of his semifinal to fellow-Australian Tristan Nancarrow before clinching victory.

Nancarrow nearly took the first game as well, as Martin made two uncharacteristic unforced errors to enable him to pull within 12-13. Nancarrow then dropped a shot into the net in the forehand corner to knot the score. After both players scored winners to make it 14-all, Nancarrow grazed the tin to give Martin a 15-14 first-game win.

Martin won the second game 15-12, lost the third by the same score, but accelerated his pace and his opponent's unforced errors to close out the match 15-9.

Prost ready for Ferrari test drives

MARANELLO, Italy, Nov 18, (Reuters): Formula One world champion Alan Prost will test drive his new Ferrari for the first time next week, Ferrari said yesterday.

It said in a statement that the two days of testing on Thursday and Friday at the Italian stable's track in Fiorano would enable Prost to "get used to the car and gain confidence both with the automatic gear box and the Fiorano track."

McLaren agreed on Wednesday to release Prost early instead of holding him to his contract for the rest of the year.

Ferrari agreed to do the same for their Austrian driver Gerhard Berger, ending a row between the rival constructors which had prevented both drivers beginning testing for their new teams.



Prost waves as he leaves Ferrari headquarters on Wednesday after meeting with race officials. (Reuter wirephoto)



555
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

هكذا من لاول

Danilo suffers another setback

Policarpio shares lead

THE penultimate round of the First Active Chess Tournament organized by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Flicker" was held on Friday at the new Kabayan Restaurant. The day proved to be the most spectacular encounter for the 15 finalists so far.

Nanding Policarpio registered three straight wins against Wahab Almadani, Sammy Aureliano and Jess Borgeon to share the lead with last week's leader Danilo Calasin who suffered another setback against Edwin Borigas.

Thony Monreal, who suffered his second loss to Neil Dumiao after a series of draws, is close in second with dark horse Teddy Lagmay following third. Also in a striking distance to capture the championship are Rene Mostrales, Edwin Borigas and Niel Dumiao who are bunched together in fourth position with identical scores.

All Maca-ayan fell into a bookkeeping trap set by Rene Mostrales to record the shortest game played in the finals when Maca-ayan resigned after 8 moves of the Danish Gambit. In contrast, Danilo Calasin and Thony Monreal played to a draw after 89 grueling moves of a Giuoco Piano to record the



Finalists in the tourney (left to right): Neil Dumiao, Thony Monreal, president Edward Racaza, Mon Cortado, Rading Moje, Edwin Borigas, Jess Borgeon, Danilo Calasin, Teddy Lagmay, Nanding Policarpio and Sammy Aureliano.

longest game in the tournament.

In the next game, Monreal lost to Niel Dumiao in a King's Gambit Accepted when he committed a serious error in the 11th move which forced him to give up his rook.

Another exciting match is between Borigas and Calasin in a Queen's Gambit Declined. Calasin blundered in his 41st move when he made a pawn check which resulted in Borigas gaining the tempo and capturing the pawn 5 moves later. Borigas finally won the game after successfully queening a

king.

Standings after round eleven (11):

1. Danilo Calasin 8.5 points, Nanding Policarpio 8.5; 2. Thony Monreal 8.0; 4. Rene Mostrales 7.0, Edwin Borigas 6.5, Niel Dumiao 6.5, 5. Sammy Aureliano 5.5, Jess Borgeon 5.5; 6. Wally Soriano 4.5, Rading Moje, Wahab Almadani 4.5; 7. All Maca-ayan 3.0; 8. Adrian Perez 1.0; 9. Nilo Magtanggob.

* One game pending. The first six finalists will receive trophies, courtesy of

Don Kammangara of Trico (No Kilo) Int'l Forwarders, a Kasparov chess computer and radio cassettes from Maher Abdel Karim of Adawiah Electronics, Arabic-Filipino Dictionary courtesy of its author Farid Lian and Sony stereo cassette recorders from Karim Kitamura of Sony Supplying Store.

The group top finishers of the Elimination round will each receive a trophy from Trico Int'l and wrist watch courtesy of Jun Mercado, the most promising presidential aspirant for the forthcoming Kapilku election. Consolation prizes, dinner for two voucher courtesy of Kabayan Restaurant, will be given to the non-winners of the championship round.

A simple awarding ceremony will follow immediately after the last game on Friday, November 24 at the new Kabayan Restaurant. Acting president Engr Edward Racaza also announced that the election of the regular sets of officers will be held on the same place and date (November 24 at Kabayan Restaurant) at 3:00 pm during a break in the games. All members have been asked to come in proper uniform for the ceremony.

Soviets and Americans fail in Cup

TOKYO, Nov 18, (Reuters): The United States and Soviet Union, Olympic gold and silver medalists, lost to Cuba and Italy respectively in the men's volleyball World Cup in Osaka today.

Cuba, who boycotted the Seoul Games, won 15-8 15-11. European champions Italy, ninth at the Olympics, overcame the Russians 15-8 15-12 15-7.

Explosive spikes, powerful back attacks and high blocks, led by Cuban attacker Joel Desamparado, gave Cuba command from the first set. Although the US, which back with some powerful servers and lost 11-9 in the third set, they never looked likely to win.

Cuban head coach Orlando Samuels said: "We have been playing with the same members for the last two years while the US had to rebuild their team after winning the Olympics."

"Experience made the difference," he said. "Cuba and Italy lead the eight-nation tournament with two victories. The US have lost twice and the Soviet Union once."

Short triumphs

BELGRADE, Nov 18, (Reuters): World chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union and British grandmaster Nigel Short share the lead with three points each after the fourth round of the Belgrade international tournament yesterday.

Short beat Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir Ljuboevic after 30 moves in a Sicilian defence.

Kasparov, the third round leader, only managed a draw against Jan Timman of Netherlands. Afterwards Kasparov said he had had an easy winning position but overlooked a tactical combination.

PBAK Winter League starts

By Sonny Mariano

THE PBAK Winter League, previously known as the Non-Pro League, rolled off to a blazing start on Friday at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

Twelve teams are participating in this year's edition of the League and each team is named after a place in Kuwait. Before the actual games a brief opening ceremony was held presided by Bojo Hamdan.

After the welcome address of PBAK President Rico Pino, Shawliq Haddad the executive assistant, Manager of Holiday Inn delivered a short speech and then together with Julie Dent rolled the ceremonial ball to signal the start of the games.

The twelve participating teams are as follows: defending champions Shuwaikh-Chiquita (First Fruits Co.) Surra-Magnolia-Salmiya-NTC, B, Salwa-Rashed Freight, Al-Soor-NUD cargo, Fatha NTC, B, Tabiya-Soft Rock Cafe, Mahola-Jokers, 2, Murgab-City Intl Exchange, Kaifan-BMW, Yarmouk-Tectron, Kuwait City-Araliya Rest.

Each team was also represented by their respective muses and out of this lovely looking ladies Shirley Runas of Mabuhay Rest, was chosen as Miss PBAK Winter League 89. Imelda was the first runner up while Evelyn Gudeusson was chosen as the second runner up. Both beauties came from Mowasat Hospital.

Going into the first day of bowling action, title holders Shuwaikh Chiquita rolled past the Kaifan-NTC B with a 4-0 score which put their title retention bid on the right track.

The other winners on Friday were Jabriya-Softrock Cafe who demolished Murgab-City Intl Exchange 3-1, Al-Soor-Najd Cargo also went home victorious with a 3-1 win over Mahola-Jokers2, Salmiya-NTC and Kuwait City-Araliya Rest had an



Shawliq Haddad rolls the ceremonial bowl



From left to right: Shawliq Haddad, Julie Dent, Evelyn, Imelda, Shirley, Cora Paras and Rico Pino.

even 2-2 output while Surra-Magnolia/Far East edged Kaifan-BMW and finally Yarmouk-Tectron outlasted Salwa-Al Rashed Freight 3 Games to 1.

Schedule of games: Thursday Nov. 23 at 6 pm: D vs J; D vs I; 1:00pm: F vs G; H vs I 5 pm J vs

Battle for 3rd place

hubs up

THE Mopche Kuwait Monday Darts League again provided some splendid action in this week's matches, the highlight of which was the meeting of the top two teams Bags and Monroes for the first time.

Steve Edwards, in his last few weeks in Kuwait, was in unenviable form as he took the opening match to give Bags first blood. Keith Chandler performed admirably in taking a leg, but with Edwards hitting 214 in 4 high scores, and a 20 dart leg, Bags were off to an impressive start. Bags were off to an impressive start, legs were swapped one for one, with Bags never being behind, as Allan Anderson was left the job of tying the score 2-2 after the singles matches by also scoring 214 in going past leg 10 in 2-1.

Edwards continued to be the star of the show as his superb performance in the first Mickey Mouse guaranteed Bags a point, but Anderson was not to be outdone as he guided himself and Chandler through the second Mickey Mouse to earn a point for Monroes. In the ladies game Marilyn took control and inflicted a second successive defeat on Nightlights to remain top of their League.

With both the leading clubs dropping points Exales had the chance to make up some lost ground. Brahms & Lizz had other ideas however, as they took an early 3-1 lead in the singles. Billy Vignate joined the 140 Club whilst there were 4 and 3 high scores respectively for Dave Robinson and Stewart Skelhorn. Vignate and Skelhorn then teamed up to secure the points from the first MIM to earn their first win of the season in a good team performance.

Tyne Tees and Ragsmuffins also earned the opportunity to go 3rd by drawing 3-3. Ragsmuffins were never headed throughout as Tyne Tees had to fight back after every game. The main match-up



Above and below: action shots from this week's TCF vs Cottar Hoose game



meant a first Monday defeat for Andy Wilson at the hands of Wayne Mochro as both players hit 4 high scores, one of Mochro's being a 140. But the writing was on the scoreboard for Wilson, as despite 5 bulls in 3 darts he lost his MIM as well, spelling out another dropped point.

No such hiccups for Campenologists and Cottar Hoose as they both joined a four way tie in third place by virtue of easy wins. Campenologists fought out a ding-dong battle with Starts of the Yess, pulling off a 5-1 win thanks to Brian Mitchell's 3 high scores, although Keiron Dick did register a 140 for the Stars.

Cottar Hoose gave T.C.F. the

hump by taking all four singles games for an unassailable lead despite Fete Cunningham's 140 score, but the Camel lovers took both MIM games to give the score an air of respectability. With the ladies game being drawn 2-2 in both these fixtures, Marilyn and Featherlights have now begun to open up a slight gap at the top of the table.

The full results summary for this week's Mopche Wednesday Darts League fixtures were as follows, with ladies' scores in brackets: Monroes (3) 3, Bags (1) 3; Tyne Tees (4) 3, Ragsmuffins (0) 3; T.C.F. (2) 2, Cottar Hoose (2) 4; Starts of the Yess (2) 1, Campenologists (2) 5; Brahms & Lizz 4, Exales 2.

Braves hold off Royals

BRAVES held off a strong challenge from Royals for a 19-13 victory in a T-Ball match of the Kuwait Little League on Friday. Both the teams seemed to be inspired by the beautiful weather that day.

The Royals started the game by showing some real fine hitting. Naseem Al Shaya was the home-run hitter for his team again this week bringing in 2 runs. Nabel and Christopher both had doubles in the first inning earning 2 RBIs for Christopher. Shannon, Nabel, Christopher, Nawar, Naseem, Oliver and Yahya all scored to give the Royals 13 runs.

The Braves also had a fine game. Skylon Moss was the home-run hitter for the Braves earning 2 RBIs. Ahmed Afani had a triple bringing in 2 runs. Majed Al Mulla and Bushra Khan each had nice doubles and Bushra earned 1 RBI. In the first inning the Braves scored 11 runs. The Royals tried their best but just couldn't catch up.

The only Major League game was between the Orioles and the Rangers. The Rangers pitcher Josh Bauer started off strong but had to be replaced by Rusty Stronberg when an old injury started aching up. Catcher Khalid Al Shaya made three fine defensive plays for his team preventing runners from scoring.

The Orioles proved to be too strong for the Rangers. After their defeat last week by the strong Giants team the Orioles wanted to show their fans they could do it. Jihad Sableh really had it with a home run in the third, a double in the fifth and a single in the first. Pitcher Cory Fox had a beautiful triple bringing in 1 run. The Orioles took the game in the 11th.

Next up were the Athletics against the Cubs. The Cubs were defeated as they entered this game and they really showed the Athletics how strong they were. The Athletics pitcher John Zakarian and his first baseman Junsid Gul had a great 1-3 defense going. Susan Merrill and Bashar Mardini each had a home run, Susan earned 2 RBIs, Bashar 1. Justin Abdel, Mohammed Labach, and John Zakarian each had triples. Usama Taha, Norman Chirard, Bader Al Kandari, Ahmed Lahib and Tim Bender all hit doubles adding to the Athletics score.

The Athletics never let up. The team showed real spirit as they rallied in the second inning. Ahmed Khalaf, Abdul Jaleel, Christian Kuhn, Yousef Al Ghanim and Mohammed Al Saqr all scored in the second. Razi Al Shami and Ahmed Najah tried to get the rally going in the third with their scoring, but it just wasn't meant to be. The Cubs took the game 23 to the Athletics 5.

The Astros and Blue Jays played some fine ball. The Blue Jays looked strong in the first inning. Jafer Ashkman's triple brought in two runs putting his team in the lead. Rahman Al Saqr and Mohammed Al Saqr also scored in the second. Razi Al Shami and Ahmed Najah tried to get the rally going in the third with their scoring, but it just wasn't meant to be. The Cubs took the game 23 to the Athletics 5.

The Astros weren't hitting much but walked around and around totaling 11 runs. The only hit was by Rida with a single bringing in 1 run. Final score Astros 11 Blue Jays 3.

The final game was between the Twins and the Tigers. Singers for the Twins were Bashar Al Awadhi with a double and Razi Al Awadhi also with a double. The Twins couldn't seem to get the ball past the Tigers pitcher Ahmed Al Qallaf. Ahmed made eight out of nine batters and only walked four.

Hitters for the Tigers were Asha Pathak with a double, Noha Abdel Aziz with 2 doubles, Ahmed Al Qallaf, Basil Zalatimo, Nawal Al Ghanim, and Ali Al Bummy also with doubles. Ahmed Qalaf had a real good day with a triple in the first inning and a home run in the second. Ahmed alone earned 6 RBIs. The Tigers were just too much for the Twins. Final score Twins 9 Tigers 23.

Hubara team return to winning ways

HUBARA CRICKETERS returned to winning form with a comfortable 15-2 run win over Hawks, in the Friday League match at the K.O.C. Grounds. It was a good all-round team performance in all departments that led to the win.

Opening the innings for Hubara, Shipton and Talbot got off to a steady start against the pace attack of Hawks, who bowled particularly well. It was he that accounted for the wicket of Shipton, who had scored 15 out of a partnership of 41. Talbot took his score on 52, before he was out to a very well-judged catch by Jackson off his own bowling. Hunt was adjusted low next ball for 6 which meant the middle order would have to come good if the team was to put up a reasonable score. This they did with great aplomb, although Haseman only made 1. Burton with 20, I.B. Patel with 39 not out, and Coulson with 24 took the total to 154 in the full 30 overs.

In reply Hawks got off to a poor start, losing the prize wicket of Amjad bowled by a Coulson special from Fitzpatrick. Quiser was low to Shipton and Prashant fell to a superb one-handed legside catch by Tilton Stein off the bowling of Fitzpatrick. Meanwhile Shiv was batting well before being caught for 44 going for a big hit. Mukesh departed in the same fashion also off Hunt, leaving Hawks struggling on 77 for 5. Aslam and Jayantini pushed the score along into the hundreds before Talbot accounted for the wickets of Jayanti, Ashgar and Vinod. Frank was run out for 4 leaving Aslam 36 not out and Hawks 12 runs short.

The Hubara fielding was the main feature, and no catches were dropped.

Lakers beat Nuggets

INGLEWOOD, California, Nov 18, (AP): Magic Johnson had a club-record 24 assists to go with 24 points and AC Green added 27 points and 13 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to six games by beating Denver.

Jarvis Whitehead had 20 points for the Lakers, who have won nine straight regular-season home games, including their first five this season. Alex English led Denver with 19 points.

The Nuggets opened the fourth quarter with a 9-1 run to slice a 15-point deficit to 96-88 with 9:46 left in the game.

The Lakers responded with an 18-7 run sparked by Michael Cooper's pair of 18-foot jumpers. Mychal Thompson's two free throws with 4:56 left capped the run and gave the Lakers their biggest lead, 114-93.

Trail Blazers 110, Suns 109. Jerome Kersey made one of two free throws with six seconds remaining and Clyde Drexler

returned from an injury to score 27 points, leading Portland over Phoenix.

Drexler, who missed four straight games and five overall with a bruised right elbow, passed to Kersey, who was fouled by Mark West while driving the baseline.

Phoenix then had a chance to win the game, but Tom Chambers' off-balanced 10-footer bounced off the rim, and Buck Williams grabbed the rebound, his 14th.

Kevin Johnson had 25 points to lead Phoenix and Eddie Johnson added 21 for the Suns. Terry Porter scored 22 points for the Trail Blazers.

Hitters for the Tigers were Asha Pathak with a double, Noha Abdel Aziz with 2 doubles, Ahmed Al Qallaf, Basil Zalatimo, Nawal Al Ghanim, and Ali Al Bummy also with doubles. Ahmed Qalaf had a real good day with a triple in the first inning and a home run in the second. Ahmed alone earned 6 RBIs. The Tigers were just too much for the Twins. Final score Twins 9 Tigers 23.

KPBL holds induction ceremony for officers

THE induction ceremony for KPBL (Kuwait-Pinoy Basketball League) officers was held at the Mabuhay Restaurant on Tuesday.

Present during the ceremony were several Philippine embassy staff members headed by Ambassador Dr. Mauryag, Philippine Consul General Olivia V. Palaia, the consul-general. Palaia, in her welcome address, said that the KPBL was a good sign for everybody because it showed how active and concerned the Filipinos were in the state of Kuwait. She invited the Filipinos to take part in the KPBL, as well as other projects co-ordinated with the Philippine embassy.

Palaia later introduced the ambassador to the gathering. The ambassador, who took up his post in Kuwait recently, also lauded the formation of KPBL.

Dr. Mauryag said that it was through organizations like KPBL that the Filipino feeling of loneliness and homesickness are eased by making them more relaxed and at home. This, he added, helped them to become more alert and as a result more productive in their jobs.

The ambassador also asked the KPBL to make extensive efforts to bring teams from the Professional Basketball Association of the Philippines to play in Kuwait. Later on, the ambassador inducted the KPBL officers and the KPBL board of governors.

Among the people present at the ceremony were a number of coaches of various teams, managers and a lot of well-known Filipinos. All of them were happy at the formation of the League. Some sponsors of the team



Dr. Mauryag (centre), Palaia (left) and the ambassador's wife go through the rule books.



The Philippine ambassador talks to some of his staff members and KPBL officers.



Filipinos listen to their national anthem.

were also present, the most prominent being Abdulla Tiffouni, who is also the manager of KPBL. Tiffouni said that he hoped that the KPBL would be different from other basketball competitions in Kuwait and if the event was held under the leadership of the Philippine ambassador everything would run smoothly and the Filipino community would benefit from this event. He wished the organizers "good luck" in their task of providing year-round basketball entertainment.

Albert Arriola, the board of governors representative for the Kuwait Regency Palace, said that it was time that KPBL took care of the basketball competitions in Kuwait. His comment was echoed by Romeo Ramirez, Alex Morales, Jimmy Joco,

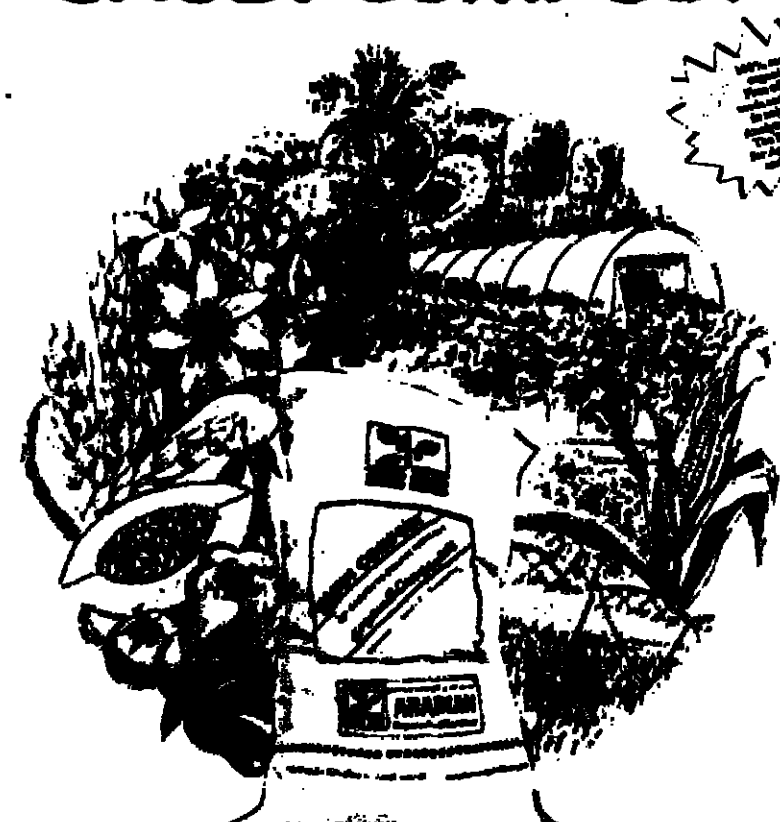
Ruben N. Seldua, Alfredo Babiera, David Brooks, Cris Brillo, Bert Martin, Florencio de Los Santos and Don Jayantha Kammangara.

Guillermo H. Limdimas, the secretary of the KPBL, said that the success of the event would be measured by accomplishments, which could not come overnight. "It has to be accomplished by lots of hard work," he continued. "Definitely my fellow officers and I will be making a lot of mistakes but we shall not try to hide them. With everyone's help we can make KPBL worthwhile for all the basketball enthusiasts in Kuwait."

The organizers announced yesterday that the final meeting for the Dec 1 First Conference would be held on Nov 27 at 7:30 pm at the Mabuhay Restaurant.

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SPORTS

CRICKET

Nehru centenary

KUWAIT India International Exchange Company will sponsor a veterans cricket match in connection with the celebration of Nehru centenary. The match will be played on Thursday, Nov 23, 1989 at K.C.L. ground in Sabah Al Salem which starts at 12.45 pm. The match is organised by Kuwait Cricket League (KCL), in which all the veteran cricketers over 45 years of age belonging to India and Pakistan living in Kuwait will participate.

African berth

TUNIS, Tunisia, Nov 18, (AP): Cameroon, champion of the continent, appears the favourite in tomorrow's match against Tunisia for one of the two African berths in next year's World Cup finals in Italy. The "Indomitable Lions", as they are known, enjoy a two-goal advantage after the first match Oct 28 in the home-and-home series against Tunisia.

Dutch striker

MILAN, Italy, Nov 18, (Reuters): AC Milan's inspirational Dutch striker Ruud Geulit will be fit in about 40 days, his club said yesterday.

Cup seedings

ROME, Nov 18, (Reuters): Fifa, soccer's ruling body, is not expected to announce seedings for the 1990 World Cup final Dec 8 — the eve of the draw for the tournament.

Chang triumphs

HARTFORD, Connecticut, Nov 18, (AP): Michael Chang overcame a 6-1 first-set loss and rallied to win the last two sets 6-3, 6-4, to defeat Jimmy Connors in an exhibition match at the Acura Tennis Classic.

Cup qualifier

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Nov 18, (Reuters): The United States and Trinidad and Tobago meet tomorrow to decide who gets the last qualifying spot for the 1990 World Cup soccer finals. Trinidad and Tobago need only to draw to clinch the 24th berth in the finals in Italy next June and July, while the United States must win to qualify for the World Cup for the first time for 40 years.

Souvenir shields

KUWAIT, Nov 18, (Kuna): Head of Kuwaiti Journalists Association Ahmed Yousif Al Behbehani presented Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait and head of Iranian sports delegation to the Peace and Friendship games with souvenir shields on KJA's behalf. The shields were carved with Kuwait as well as the association's emblems, and that of the Peace and Friendship Games: the Quranic verses, saying "No doubt your nation is one nation and as I am your God, worship me."

Rugby match

DUBLIN, Nov 18, (Reuters): New Zealand beat Ireland 23-6 (half-time 13-6) in their rugby union international today. Scorers: New Zealand — John Gallagher, Terry Wright, Wayne Shelford, tries. Grant Fox, three penalties, conversion. Ireland — Brian Smith, two penalties.

Disgraced star

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Nov 18, (AP): Despite his longstanding effort to combat drug use by athletes, the head of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission now finds himself defending Ben Johnson, the disgraced track star. Prince Alexandre de Merode is adamant that the Canadian sprinter, once called the fastest man on earth, should not be treated more harshly than other offenders.

W. German soccer

BONN, Nov 18, (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results today: Borussia M 0 Bayer U 1
Hamburg 4 VfB Stuttgart 2
Waldhof M 4 Hamburger SV 1
Cologne 3 Eintracht F 5
Karlsruhe 2 Bochum 0
Borussia D 0 Bayern M 0
Werder Bremen 0 Bayer L 0
Played on Friday:
Nuremberg 0 Kaiserslautern 0
St Pauli 1 Fortuna D 0

Villa crush Coventry

Arsenal blast QPR

LONDON, Nov 18, (Reuters): Champions Arsenal took over the lead in English soccer's First Division from fellow-Londoners Chelsea after a 3-0 home victory over Queen's Park Rangers today.

Alan Smith's seventh goal of the season sent Arsenal on their way and Lee Dixon, with a penalty, and substitute Siggi Jonsson added second-half goals to crush last Saturday's conquerors of Liverpool.

Chelsea struck twice in three minutes through Ken Monkou and Kevin Wilson to recover from a two-goal deficit for a 2-2 draw with Southampton and extend an unbeaten run in League matches at home to 27.

With Norwich held to a scoreless draw at home by Charlton and Liverpool playing at Millwall on Sunday, Aston Villa took sole possession of third place with a 4-1 triumph at home to Coventry that included two goals from Ian Ornondroyd.

Scottish Premier League leaders Hearts were stung into action by the sending off of Wayne Foster in the 54th minute, scoring three times in the last 20 minutes to beat Motherwell 3-0.

Arsenal have 27 points, one more than Chelsea who went behind to two goals by Matthew le Tissier, the first a penalty on the stroke of halftime. Villa have 24 points.

Fifth place on 21 points is shared by Liverpool, Tottenham



Alan Smith and Everton, who appeared to be coasting to a 1-0 home win over lowly Wimbledon before Steve Otterill sneaked an injury-time equaliser.

Tottenham gave £1 million (\$1.57-million) goalkeeper Nigel Martyn a tough First Division debut with a 3-2 win at Crystal Palace.

The new Palace keeper, signed to shore up the worst defence in the First Division, conceded goals by Davis Howells, a Gary Lineker penalty and Vinny Samways, who struck a 76th minute winner after Mark Bright's second goal had levelled the score. Palace have let in 30 goals in 14 League matches.

Results

| English Division One | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Arsenal | 3 | QPR | 0 |
| Aston Villa | 4 | Coventry | 1 |
| Chelsea | 2 | Southampton | 2 |
| Crystal P | 2 | Tottenham | 3 |
| Derby | 2 | Sheff Wed | 0 |
| Everton | 1 | Wimbledon | 1 |
| Luton | 1 | Manchester U | 3 |
| Manchester C | 0 | Notts Forest | 3 |
| Norwich | 0 | Charlton | 0 |
| Playing Sunday: Millwall v Liverpool | | | |
| English Division Two | | | |
| Barnley | 1 | Newcastle | 1 |
| Bournemouth | 2 | Skegby | 1 |
| Leeds | 2 | Watford | 1 |
| Leicester | 0 | Wolves | 1 |
| Oxford | 0 | Brighton | 0 |
| Portsmouth | 1 | Hull | 0 |
| Port Vale | 2 | Swindon | 0 |
| Sheff U | 1 | Bradford | 0 |
| Sunderland | 3 | Plymouth | 1 |
| West Ham | 2 | Middlesbrough | 0 |
| Wolves | 1 | Blackburn | 0 |
| English Football Association (FA) Cup | | | |
| First round | | | |
| Aylesbury | 1 | Southend | 0 |
| Eastleigh | 3 | Brooklyne | 0 |
| Bishop Auckland | 2 | Tow Law Town | 0 |
| Blackpool | 2 | Bolton | 1 |
| Barnard | 2 | Colchester | 1 |
| Bristol C | 2 | Barnet | 0 |
| Bristol R | 1 | Reading | 1 |

| Bury | 1 | Stockport | 1 |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| Cardiff | 1 | Halesowen | 0 |
| Carlisle | 3 | Wrexham | 0 |
| Crewe | 2 | Conington | 0 |
| Darlington | 6 | Northwich | 2 |
| Darford | 1 | Exeter | 1 |
| Doncaster | 1 | Notts County | 0 |
| Farnborough | 0 | Hereford | 1 |
| Gillingham | 0 | Welling | 0 |
| Gloucester | 1 | Dorchester | 0 |
| Grimsby | 0 | Huddersfield | 2 |
| Harlepool | 0 | Northampton | 1 |
| Kettering | 0 | Swansea | 1 |
| Kidderminster | 2 | Birmingham | 1 |
| Leyton O | 1 | Billingham | 0 |
| Lincoln | 1 | Cheltenham | 1 |
| Macclesfield | 1 | Hayes | 1 |
| Manchester | 1 | Tramere | 0 |
| Peterborough | 1 | Merthyr T | 3 |
| Preston | 1 | Bury | 0 |
| Redditch | 0 | Widley Bay | 1 |
| Rotherham | 0 | Matlock | 1 |
| Scarborough | 0 | Chesham | 3 |
| Southport | 4 | Woking | 2 |
| Shrewsbury | 2 | Torquay | 3 |
| Sloagh | 1 | Walsall | 2 |
| Stafford R | 2 | Grimsby | 2 |
| Sutton | 1 | | |
| Telford | 0 | | |
| York | 1 | | |
| Played Friday: | | | |
| Aldershot | 0 | Cambridge | 1 |
| Marine | 0 | Rochdale | 1 |
| Playing Sunday: Bath v Fulham, Maidstone v Notts, Wigan v Mansfield. | | | |
| Scottish Premier Division | | | |
| Celtic | 0 | Dundee U | 1 |
| Dundee | 0 | Rangers | 2 |
| Dumfries | 1 | St Mirren | 0 |
| Heart of Midlothian | 3 | Greenock | 0 |
| Hibernian | 0 | Hibernian | 0 |
| St Mirren | 0 | Hibernian | 0 |
| Scottish Division One | | | |
| Albion | 2 | Raid | 1 |
| Aberdeen | 1 | Morton | 1 |
| Clydebank | 4 | Ayr | 1 |
| Forfar | 1 | Clyde | 1 |
| Hamilton | 1 | Falkirk | 1 |
| Partick | 2 | Arbroath | 0 |
| St Johnstone | 1 | Airdrie | 2 |
| Scottish Division Two | | | |
| Dumfries | 2 | Queen's Park | 2 |
| E. Stirling | 1 | Queen's Park | 2 |
| Kilmarnock | 1 | Stirling | 2 |
| Montrose | 2 | Berwick | 2 |
| Queen's Park | 2 | Arbroath | 0 |
| St Johnstone | 2 | Brechin | 0 |

Egyptians celebrate Cup berth

CAIRO, Egypt, Nov 18, (AP): Thousands of cheering, dancing young men thronged down Cairo's main streets last night, bathing in the luxury of Egypt's first trip to the World Cup soccer championships in 55 years.

Egypt, a middling international soccer power in the 1920s, the decade before the World Cup series began, had just defeated Algeria 1-0 to claim one of two African slots among the 24 teams for the Cup tournament next May and June in Rome.

People waved the red, white and black Egyptian flag from the tops of moving automobiles. Street dancers used oversized flags as props for their gyrations. One car had "On to Italy" sprayed on its windshield, a tiny flag flapping back and forth from extended windshield wipers.

Parts of the capital looked more like New Year's Eve in New York's Times Square or London's Piccadilly Circus.

A measure of the mood was evidenced by Fayez Zommar, head of Egyptian television's sports department, appearing on screen after the game with a weeping coach Mohammed El Gohary.

"It's the answer to a 55-year dream," Zommar told his viewers during an impromptu speech in which he thanked God, President Hosni Mubarak and assorted other officials for the Egyptian victory.

El Gohary thanked God too, then attributed the victory to hard work for Egypt and predicted even better in Rome next May and June in the World Cup. Egypt played in the second World Cup, in Naples in 1934, but lost its first game 4-2 to powerhouse Hungary. Before the birth of the World Cup in 1930, Egypt regularly advanced strongly through the Olympic soccer tournaments, which then were the epitome of the sport.

In 1924, the Egyptians embarrassed pre-Olympics favourite Hungary, 3-0. In the next games, in 1928, Egypt won its first three games including a 7-0 thrashing of Turkey to reach the Olympics semifinals.

As Friday approached, there appeared to be a feeling in Cairo that those glory days might be approaching again. Celebrations were under way as early as Thursday night, with flag-carrying, horn-blowing car-riders zooming through the streets. The match was the talk of the coffee shops yesterday morning.

Mubarak, who passed up the game but sent his two sons in his place, told the players in a telegram he had "followed with gratefulness and appreciation your special performance." He called their effort "this great victory."

The call to afternoon Muslim prayers sounded over television minutes of the end of the broadcast. The call intoned at the same time from minarets throughout the capital.

Middle East politics was not the only item on the agenda when US President George Bush telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today.

He also congratulated him on Egypt's victory over Algeria. The National Middle East News Agency (Mena) said Bush called Mubarak to discuss Middle East peace diplomacy.



Two Egyptian players intercept an Algerian striker. (Reuters wirephoto)



Algeria's Lakdar Belloumi (left) intercepts Egypt's Hossam Hassan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Al Arabi win opener

AL ARABI Sports Club started their defence of the Kuwait Soccer League title with a 1-0 victory over arch-rivals Qadisiya on Friday evening.

The first goal of the 1989/90 season was scored for Al Arabi by Khalid Al Nasser in the 5th minute of the match after he received a neat cross inside the box. Nasser seemed to be just waiting for that cross, and he gave the rival goalkeeper no chance to affect a save.

The move started with an Al Arabi player lobbing the ball into the box. The Qadisiya goalkeeper just managed to keep it away but the ball rebounded off him to another Al Arabi player, on whose pass Al Nasser converted the goal.

Qadisiya went on to the attack right from the very beginning, a style that has been so familiar to Qadisiya game throughout last season, when they won the Amir cup, by beating Arabi 2-1.

Right wing Anbar Masrouq, who penetrated deep into Arabi area had an excellent opportunity to score in the second minute but the elegant Arabi goalkeeper, Samer Saeed, just managed to flick the ball for a corner.

Qadisiya right winger Hamad Al Saleh continuously threatened the Al Arabi defence but his excellent moves, but was met with some rough play by Arabi's left back Asmer Yasser. Al



Bloushi (left) being presented with a shield

Salah couldn't come in for the second half.

After the goal, Qadisiya launched several attacks, but most of them lacked penetration. In the second half, Arabi tightened their grip on the match and Qadisiya almost faded. Most of their passes were inaccurate. Their attacks lacked penetration and Al Arabi defence found no difficulty in keeping Qadisiya strikers at bay.

The match was also played for the retirement of Al Arabi and national team player, Abdullah Bloushi, who announced his retirement after the match.

Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah and KFA president Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad and a capacity crowd of about 20,000, watched the match. They bid farewell to Bloushi.

In matches played yesterday, Al Kuwait played to a 1-1 draw with Kazma while Jabra were held to a goalless draw by Al Nasr. This evening Yarmouk take on Salamiya at Misaf at 4.00 pm.

Strange and O'Meara take four-shot lead

THOUSAND OAKS, Ca., Nov 18, (Reuters): Curtis Strange and Mark O'Meara were a dream team yesterday as they grabbed a four-shot lead after the opening session of the three-day, \$1 million Invitational Team Golf Tournament hosted by Greg Norman.

Strange and O'Meara posted six birdies for a six-under-par 66 during the alternate shot phase of the tournament over the Sherwood Country Club course. Four shots back after a 70 were West German Bernhard Langer and his partner, John Mahaffey.

The teams of Tom Weiskopf-Lanny Wadkins, Hale Irwin-Steve Jones and Tom Kite-Hal Sutton were knotted at 71.

Finishing poorly were Norman of Australia and Jack Nicklaus. They were three-under through 13 holes, but played the last five in five over par to finish at 74.

The format changes each day for the field of 10 two-man teams. Alternate shots were played yesterday. Today, the teams were to play best ball and tomorrow it will be a scramble (each player drives but they play on from the best shot).

Strange said, "My partner was great. He made all the putts he was supposed to make and we kept the ball in play."

O'Meara shared the credit. "The key was Curtis hit the good iron shots and put me in position to make the putts."

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World Boxing Council welcomes Soviets

LONDON, Nov 18, (Reuters): The World Boxing Council (WBC) has accepted the Soviet Union as the latest member of the 130-nation body, the Council said today.

The Soviet Union formally joined the WBC during an annual council convention in New York this week, a WBC spokesman said. The convention also honoured South

African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, a boxer in his youth, with a human equality award.

Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC) has been in jail since 1964. The award was collected on his behalf by ANC director of international affairs Thabo Mbeki.

Usha wins 200m to halt Chinese gold rush



P.T. Usha

NEW DELHI, India, Nov 18, (AP): India's P.T. Usha sprinted away from Chinese challengers in the women's 200 metres today, capturing her third gold medal and third meet record in the 8th Asian Track and Field Championships.

Taiwan's Lee Fu-An sprinted away from China's Gong Guohua on the last lap of the 1,500 metres, the final event of the decathlon, and claimed the title of Asia's top all-round athlete.

Yoshiyuki Okuyama of Japan won the men's 200 and India's Bahadur Prasad won the men's 1,500, but China continued to dominate the meet.

China's Yu Hourun broke the meet record in the women's 400-metre sprint and 400-metre hurdles, and placed second in the 100 metres. She planned to try for two more golds in relay races tomorrow.

Usha won two individual gold medals and a relay gold in the 1987 championships and was one individual gold better in the 1986 Asian Games.

Team-mate Ashwini Nachappa slipped into second place in the 200 in 23.54, with China's Zhang Xiaojing third in 23.88.

"I know my timing. I ran the first half of the 400 yesterday in 23.5, so today's result was expected," said Usha.

The sprint star, who had acknowledged some stiffness yesterday, said it still bothered her a bit because "this was my fourth day on a tartan track. I usually switch to grass after two days."

After nine of the decathlon's 10 events, Lee went into the 1,500 leading Gong by only four points. The two, along with Taiwan's Pern Huan-Shuh, trailed behind the other three runners for most of the race, making a spurt on the final lap. Lee couldn't catch India's A.N. Rai, but finished second, about 8.5 seconds ahead of Gong.

Earlier, she had won the 400-metre sprint and 400-metre hurdles, and placed second in the 100 metres. She planned to try for two more golds in relay races tomorrow.

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Usha won the 200 in 23.27 seconds, breaking the meet record of 23.38 set by Lydia de Vega of the Philippines in 1987.

Lee ended with 7,703 points to 7,649 for Gong. Pern was third with 7,119.

An anticipated battle between Chinese stars Yu Hourun and Hou Xuemei, both capable of 68-metre throws, did not develop in the discus. Hou, silver medalist in the recent World Cup meet in Barcelona, was suffering from flu, coaches said, and dizziness forced her to drop out after her first try.

You won with a throw of 61.92 metres, beating the meet record of 59.10 set by China's Li Xiaohui in 1987. Japan's Ikuko Kitamori was second at 51.78 and Pak In Ok of North Korea third at 47.62.

In the men's 200, Yoshiyuki Okuyama won in 20.80 and Khalid Juman of Bahrain sprinted into second in 21.07, ahead of China's Cai Jianming, who was third in 21.18.

Prasad and teammate Ram Niwas led most of the way in the 1,500, although Mohamed Salimene of Qatar held the lead going into the final lap. Prasad took over again with more than 200 metres to go, and Niwas overtook Salimene on the final stretch.

Prasad finished in 3 minutes, 45.77 seconds, to 3:46.53 for

Niwas and 3:47.95 for Salimene. Yu Zhicheng edged Iraq's Najib Ghazi Mohsin 14.18 seconds to 14.20 in the men's 110-metre hurdles, with Japan's Osamu Matsui third in 14.36.

Liu Huijun, recovering from a knee injury, gave China another gold by winning the women's 100-metre hurdles in 13.30, with teammate Feng Yinghua second in 13.54 and Japan's Naomi Jyogima third in 13.97.

In another 1-2 finish for China, Chen Yanning won the triple jump with a leap of 16.95 metres and Du Beizhong was second at 16.68, with Taiwan's Nai Hui-Fang third at 16.65.

Standings
Medals table after the fourth day of the Asian athletics championships on Saturday (tablets under gold, silver, bronze):
China 17 12 5
India 6 6 4
Japan 4 4 4
U.S. Korea 2 1 1
N. Korea 1 2 2
Taiwan 1 1 3
Qatar 1 1 1
Iran 1 1 1
Saudi 1 1 1
Bahrain 1 1 1
Iraq 1 1 1
Oman 1 1 1
Philippines 1 1 1
Burma 1 1 1
Palestine 1 1 1
Malaysia 1 1 1
Syria 1 1 1

New Zealand struggle against S. Australia

ADELAIDE, Nov 18, (Reuters): New Zealand's attack, handicapped by a true batting surface and sloppy fielding, were punished by South Australia on the second day of their four-day cricket match today.

opener Glenn Bishop took his score to 173 and all-rounder Joe Scuderi hit a career-best 75 not out in a commanding South Australia first innings total of 459.

The visitors reached 89 for one in reply, with Robert Vance on 36 and Mark Greatbatch 27. Skipper John Wright was trapped for 23 by left-arm paceman Phil Alley.

Scuderi dominated the bowling during his 143-minute, 100-ball innings and improved his previous highest first class score of 67 against New South Wales in January.

He showed his bowling skill as well, with seven maidens in a spell of nine overs.

South Australia,